ANNUAL REPORTS
American Jewish Committee

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OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

The objects of this corporation shall be, to prevent the infrac-
tion 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 adminis-
ter any relief fund which shall come into its possession or which
may be received by it, in trust or otherwise, for any of the afore-
said objects or for purposes comprehended therein.

—Extract from the Charter
HIGHLIGHTS OF 1951

By Irving M. Engel
Chairman, Executive Committee
The American Jewish Committee

In preparing this report for you—a report of highlights during the year just past, I spent some time checking over the predictions we ventured at our last Annual Meeting as to what might be the major problems for us during 1951. For it seemed to me that it would be comforting if I could tell you that many of our fears of a year ago had not been realized, that many of the problems we anticipated did not materialize, and that the flames we then saw had either burned themselves out or had turned in other directions. Unfortunately, I cannot tell you any of those things. To a very large extent the areas which we delineated for your attention were indeed vital ones during 1951.

Public education, for example, continued under attack. Interreligious tensions were acute. Problems arising out of Communism were, and still are, with us. The struggle to strengthen our defenses against its onslaughts without severely impairing our civil rights and liberties continued, and so did the exploitation by demagogues of the general atmosphere of acute strain and heightened tension. Manifold problems arose in connection with Germany. And, finally, we were confronted with many difficult situations in connection with Jewish education and Jewish attitudes.

One thing should be said at the outset—and that is that the events of the past year sharply underscore the validity of the American Jewish Committee’s emphasis on community relations activities as important not only for the welfare of Jews but for the well-being of all Americans.

Behind the Attacks on Public Schools

I spoke, last year, of the attack on public education, which was then in an incipient stage. In the ensuing months there was an alarming outbreak of charges and countercharges hurled recklessly at the public schools, with which, we, as Jews and as Americans, were concerned for many reasons. The primary reason, of course, was the realization that public education can serve as the foundation block in the building of democratic attitudes. In addition, our Fact Finding Division disclosed that these attacks were spearheaded by individuals and groups with known anti-Semitic and anti-democratic backgrounds. Thirdly, many of the groups attacking the schools are obviously opposed to the very concept of public education and wish to destroy it. Again, many respectable elements in the community were aligning themselves on the side of the attackers without realizing the dangerous implications of their position. Businessmen and real estate men, for example, were critical of the schools because they were concerned with rising taxes. They had a right, of course, to oppose those conditions of which they disapproved. But many of these honest opponents were and still are unaware of the sinister background and real purposes of the instigators of the public school attacks, and by joining them, of course, they lent them respectability and strength.

The events in Pasadena, California, in Englewood, New Jersey, and in many
other places indicated that one of the major targets of these attacks was, understandably, the human relations programs in the public schools. Anything designed to establish sound intergroup attitudes among children was promptly condemned as "communistic," "subversive," or just plain "extravagant." Liberal educators were similarly smeared.

In most instances it was clear that the attacking elements sought to turn back the clock in the field of public education. They wanted the schools to adopt a philosophy and methodology designed to produce a mental and social climate in which no minority group could possibly live with security, and in which fundamental American freedoms would certainly be in jeopardy.

Alerting Americans

For all these reasons we considered it necessary to alert Americans to this situation. We undertook a broad educational program utilizing pamphlets, radio, television, fact sheets, meetings with labor educators, youth leaders, and veterans' groups. In close cooperation with the U. S. Office of Education and the National Education Association, we prepared materials and secured speakers for public meetings, some of which were broadcast and televised over national networks. We prepared, for example, a pamphlet called, Danger, They're After Our Schools, which was issued by, and with the imprint of, the National Education Association and which has already been distributed to thousands of educators, parents, and community leaders. It is an illustrated pamphlet that analyzes the anti-school campaign, lists the principal groups involved, their backgrounds, and methods of operation as well as their previous and present activities.

But even while we were utilizing all available national channels of communication in this drive to protect our schools, we realized that, in the final analysis, the battle would be won or lost in the local community. We knew that the attackers depended for their success primarily upon the inertia and fearfulness of the school officials, many of whom are already pressed by depleted budgets and inadequate staff facilities. And, we were further aware that they depended also upon the lack of understanding among the citizenry as to what was really at stake.

Last year, therefore, when the situation became acute in several New Jersey cities, we responded to the appeal of the New Jersey Education Association by placing at its service a professional community relations consultant. This person is now at work in three selected communities, developing closer community-school ties by encouraging and helping the townspeople to study their school systems, to determine and appraise their needs, and to plan ways and means of meeting these needs. This involves leading citizens working together with teachers, setting up forums and neighborhood discussion groups, sparking local "Know Your School" campaigns, and organizing community councils.

We have found that where school-community councils exist, attacks on the public schools occur less frequently and are certainly less effective when they do occur. We expect also that the results achieved in the three communities of New Jersey will serve as pilot demonstrations for other communities troubled by the same problem, for the New Jersey Education Association has assumed responsibility for making its experiences known to other State Education Associations.

The attacks I have been talking about are not limited to the public schools. Similar attacks were—and continue to be—levelled at many institutions of higher learning and at the personnel within those institutions who have done most to encourage education in human relations. The major objectives of all these attacks are, of course, to destroy genuine liberal thought no matter what its shape or form, and to undermine the academic freedom which has played such a large part in the development of our American educational institutions.

I might note here, parenthetically, that in all these instances our help was sought not because we are an educational organization, but because the Committee
has earned an outstanding reputation in the community relations field. Our experience, our resources, and our skills in social engineering have, in this area of education, been repeatedly and successfully demonstrated.

**Intergroup Education**

At the same time that we were conducting activities designed to meet attacks upon the schools and other institutions of learning, our program in intergroup education was making important strides in 1951. We found that there were many opportunities to apply insights acquired in our scientific studies to the field of intergroup or community relations.

In this area our emphasis was largely directed toward building the broadest possible community support for human relations programs in schools and universities. The actual conduct of these programs is the responsibility of the schools and professional educators. But experience has demonstrated that they can be effective only if the teachers and the school administrators feel the interest and support of the parents and the community.

Specifically, we have encouraged community citizen organizations to make available their intergroup education resources to the school authorities. And we have cooperated closely with these organizations in the promotion of workshops and university centers for the training of teachers; the development of a university-sponsored field service for school systems and other educational institutions seeking consultation and guidance; and the preparation and dissemination of intergroup education materials. In our own organization, we have actively promoted research in intergroup education through our Scientific Research Department.

All of this activity, a logical extension of the cooperation and support given by the AJC for many years to the Bureau for Intercultural Education, is bearing fruit. In Washington, D.C., for example, a pattern of community organization was developed under the auspices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews through our initiative and with our assistance. A human relations workshop at the Catholic University now has available to it an advisory council composed of representatives of 24 organizations, including—in addition to the American Jewish Committee—labor groups, business associations, government employees' organizations, Protestant and Catholic religious bodies. It is important to realize that these workshops represent pioneering efforts to involve Catholic parochial school teachers in a training program for intergroup education.

These are but a very few of the exciting beginnings. You will be hearing more about this work in the months ahead.

**The Problem of Communism**

A problem overshadowing all others for Americans today is Communism. Communism presents a many-pronged threat to us. There is, of course, the obvious threat to America itself—that of possible aggression from abroad and of internal subversion. Communism, however, also threatens the status of Jews in America. This it does in two ways. There is, first, the danger that stems or might stem from the attempt to equate Jews and Communists—an equation that has recently been extended by the hate-mongers to embrace "Jews-Communists-Zionists." There is, secondly, the danger implicit in the methods adopted by some fighters or alleged fighters of Communism—methods which could, and would, if unchecked, destroy the very democracy these people profess to be defending.

The world-wide struggle today between the forces of freedom and those of totalitarianism imposes a duty upon every responsible citizen, and particularly upon American Jews, to understand the issues and to take sides. The false claims of Communists that they are the champions of minority and human rights have too
long served as an effective smokescreen for their vicious sabotage of democracy. As Jews, whose security depends upon a healthy, flourishing democracy, we have a special duty to expose and combat Communism, and, accordingly, our efforts in this area were multiplied greatly during 1951. Our program, shaped to meet the peculiar nature of the danger itself, had two principal facets: first, aiding America in its propaganda warfare against Soviet Russia by exposing the claims of the Communists that they espouse the cause of minority groups and of civil liberties; second, countering the alleged association of Jews and Communism.

**Studies on Jews and Communism**

In the latter connection it is of interest to note that our scientific studies during 1951, showed, that there was no significant tendency on the part of the general population to associate Jews and Communism, but various developments in the past few months have given us the feeling that while that is probably true of the general population, there may be a greater tendency in this direction among those whom we may consider "opinion molders." We are taking steps through our Scientific Research Department to ascertain the actual facts about this. Obviously, if our opinion molders do tend to make that association, the consequences are very likely to be serious and we must gear ourselves to prevent them. We are also cognizant of the potential danger should there be a further deterioration in our relations with Russia. For then there might very well be an increasing receptivity to the idea—even though patently false—that Jews are identified with Communism.

You should know that Conde McGinley started a new organization last year called Americans Against Communism; it is structured and oriented along familiar anti-Semitic lines. McGinley's publication, *Common Sense*, continues to be zealously promoted by him, and of all the hate sheets recently analyzed, it, more than any, promotes the "Jew-Communist-Zionist" line. Needless to say we have made many efforts to counteract the effects of this and similar groups and their publications. The American Legion in New Jersey recently publicly condemned this organization and its activities.

Somewhat less dramatic, but of far greater importance, perhaps, are the scholarly studies the AJC undertook a few years ago and completed in 1951—studies on the status of Jews in Soviet Union and satellite states. The authoritative and impressive study by Dr. Solomon M. Schwarz entitled *The Jews in the Soviet Union*, was published in book form last August by the Syracuse University Press.

*The Jews in the Soviet Union* has received extraordinary acclaim in reviews by major American periodicals and in the columns of many newspapers. The author, an expert on the U.S.S.R and formerly a high official in the Russian Social Democrat government in 1917, shows how the Communist regime has brought about the deliberate and progressive destruction of Judaism in Russia through ruthless suppression of all Jewish organizations and publications, the purging of Jewish intellectuals, and the practical extinction of Jewish communal and religious life. In *The New York Times Sunday Book Review*, Avrahm Yarmolinsky, a noted authority on Russia in his own right, commented: "The public owes thanks to the American Jewish Committee for having sponsored this admirable work of solid scholarship." Isaac Frank, writing in the *Washington Post*, asserted that the volume is "a significant contribution to the mounting documentation of the true nature of totalitarianism."

Studies of the Iron Curtain countries will also soon appear in book form. In the meantime, in the 53rd edition of the *American Jewish Year Book*, the American Jewish Committee has made available information on Soviet slave labor camps, as well as the details about the steady liquidation of Jewish life in the Iron Curtain countries. These facts, too, precipitated widespread comment in the American press, and references to them appeared in nearly 200 newspapers and periodicals throughout the nation.
During 1951, Irwin Ross' pamphlet, *Communists—Friends or Foes of Civil Liberties?* was given extensive distribution. This pamphlet, commissioned and published by us, has probably been one of the most effective weapons in the campaign to demolish the claim of Communists that they are defenders of civil liberties. To date, 23,000 copies have been distributed to Catholic, Protestant, and non-sectarian bodies. It has been used by radio commentators, discussion groups, reprinted in magazines, and discussed in the press.

The All-American Conference Against Communism

I want to mention here our participation in the All-American Conference Against Communism because it illustrates both our philosophy and our methods of approach. When this conference was organized by the American Legion, there was considerable reluctance on our part and on the part of most Jewish agencies to go along with it for a number of reasons. First, we and other Jewish agencies have had experience with similar projects in the past, and secondly, among those invited to participate was Merwin K. Hart. There was also a third reason. The program the Legion had then envisaged was called an "action program," and we feared it might result in converting various pests over the country into small vigilante movements. However, after giving the matter very careful consideration, we finally decided that the possibility that we would be able to help guide the Conference in the right direction was strong enough to warrant our taking the calculated risk involved.

We joined the Conference, and with the exception of the Jewish War Veterans, were the only Jewish agency that did. I believe the results have justified our action, for there has been a positive program of education, and a helpful exchange of data on Communism here and abroad among its constituent members. The Conference has demonstrated that Communism can be fought effectively without destroying the fundamental principles of Americanism.

Our participation and influence in that Conference have been manifested in several ways. The American Legion, with its membership of over 3 million in posts scattered over the country, has adopted as part of its activity a program for the preservation of civil rights and civil liberties. The last plenary session of the All-American Conference was keynoted by the Irwin Ross pamphlet on which the major address of the Conference was based. The Legion distributed 3,200 reprints of the *American Jewish Year Book* article on *What Is Happening to the Jews in Soviet Russia?* and the *American Legion Magazine* featured an article by Victor Lasky on the same material.

Incidentally, last November, the Legion conducted an "Appreciation of America" month with each week being given over to a different subject of basic interest to all liberal Americans. And we have just learned too that the March issue of the Legion's monthly magazine, with a circulation of 3½ million, will have a cover picture of three G.I.'s going up the gangplank of a transport carrying their duffle bags and obviously on their way to overseas service. The duffle bag of the first one shows the name of Levin, and you know he is Jewish; the second one is white, with an obviously non-Jewish name; and the third soldier is a Negro. There will be an editorial supporting the message of this picture. I leave it to you to decide how much value it is to us in our work that the American Legion is undertaking that kind of program.

AJC's Role as "Pump-Primer"

There are lessons to be learned from that experience of collaboration. The obvious one is the effectiveness of a principle we have always adopted, wherever and whenever possible, namely, the principle of "pump-priming." As "pump-primers,"
we give initial impetus to a project, and then encourage and welcome the appropriate agency or agencies carrying on from there.

There is also another lesson to be drawn. We have but a one-man Veterans Division. But that man has important, close relationships with the top leaders of the American Legion. It was largely through him that we were able to cooperate effectively with the American Legion in the ways I have mentioned.

Now, if you were drawing up one of those "efficiency charts," you might say that another organization, a full-fledged veterans' organization, would in all likelihood have similar contacts and should logically be assigned work in this area. If we were concerned solely with the business of "contacts," we might agree. But much more than that is involved. Through those contacts we were able to bring in the many community relations specialists from our staff—particularly from our Civil Rights Division—with the background and the experience for developing a really meaningful program after the initial contact was established. That, I think, is the answer to some recent attempts to apply superficial criteria of "efficiency" rather than of effectiveness.

Civil Rights—Civil Liberties

The other side of the coin in our fight against Communism is our belief that a citizenry, alive to its responsibility to protect and extend fundamental democratic rights, must carry on that fight. We believe that the surest way to protect our own liberties is to protect the rights of our neighbors, and in 1951 we acted on that principle in many ways.

We are, for example, participating in the campaign to educate people with respect to the cloture rule in the Senate which makes it impossible to break a filibuster. By means of the filibuster, a small group of men in the Senate can prevent action being taken, even though a majority may wish to take that action. We know that is one of the two ways by which action on civil rights is now being blocked in Congress. We know that the United States pays an incalculable price for the filibuster in terms of national unity and in terms of the damage to our prestige among the freedom-loving people of the world—people whose alliance we must obtain if we are going to win the struggle with Communism.

The cloture rule, which has received a great deal of publicity, operates only in the Senate. In the House, there is the "gag rule." Just a year ago, in January of 1951, very quietly and without fanfare, a motion was put through to restore the "gag rule" in the House. Under that rule, six or seven men have it within their power to determine what legislation shall or shall not go before the floor of the House. The composition of that body is such that we can be reasonably certain that, as long as the "gag rule" remains, the passage of any civil rights legislation will be impossible.

It is heartening, nevertheless, to be able to report that, outside of the Federal government, gains have been scored in the struggle to strengthen and expand our civil rights and liberties. This is made evident in our report issued late in 1951, entitled The People Take the Lead (third edition). In this survey of the five-year period since the President's Committee on Civil Rights issued its historic document, To Secure These Rights, credit for the remarkable advances in many states is placed precisely where it belongs—with the American people.

Nine states and twenty-four cities have adopted FEP bills of one kind or another. Progress has been made, too, through administrative measures and legislation in some states, through city ordinances, or through numerous court decisions. And this has been the result, essentially, of the voluntary and coordinated efforts of private American citizens across the land, who, working together in various groups—churches, veterans, labor, and others—have steadily insisted, through educational efforts, upon removal of barriers to full democratic practices.
Chapter Activities

This is unmistakable evidence that the question of equality—genuine equality for all people, regardless of race, religion or ancestry—is now pressing on the conscience of the American people. And that makes us believe that further progress will be registered—and soon.

There has been considerable chapter activity in this area, as in very many other aspects of our work, but time and space limitations permit me to mention only a few brief examples.

In the field of housing, the Chicago Chapter has been deeply involved in the development of a program to deal with the situation created by the riots in Cicero, specifically, through its members' participation in a special Cicero committee created by the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination. While this group worked on the local scene investigating the underlying causes of the riots, the national organization cooperated with the National Committee on Discrimination in Housing, and enabled the noted housing authority, Charles Abrams, to carry out an on-the-spot investigation. His searing exposure, which appeared in the November 1951 issue of Commentary, and which has been reprinted and widely distributed throughout the nation, was based upon this investigation.

Last September, you may remember, the Cook County Grand Jury indicted not only the Cicero chief of police, but also the owner of the building, his agent, and the NAACP attorney who had secured a Federal court injunction to prevent Cicero officials from interfering with the attempts of Harvey Clark, a Negro war veteran, to occupy his apartment. The Chicago Cicero Committee at once sent a delegation, including an American Jewish Committee representative, to Attorney General McGrath to urge a Federal Grand Jury investigation of the entire situation. As a result, a Federal Grand Jury was convened in Chicago, and in its findings repudiated the "whitewash" of the Cook County jury, indicting, instead, four city officials and three policemen of Cicero on charges of violating Clark's civil rights.

An analysis of this indictment, prepared by the American Jewish Committee, was circulated jointly with the Anti-Defamation League to all the community relations councils and regional offices of both organizations. In response to a request from the Chicago groups, a pamphlet showing how racial and religious minorities live together successfully, is in preparation at the moment. Civic and church bodies in Cicero, seeking to deal fundamentally with the tensions in the community that precipitated the riot, have been provided by our chapter with professional community relations workers who are guiding them along lines which, we have every reason to hope, will eventuate in a constructive community relations program.

Chapter Cooperation with Other Groups

In New York, the chapter cooperated with the New York State Committee on Discrimination in Housing on a survey of housing conditions in Harlem. Similar surveys were conducted in the Bronx and in a number of upstate New York cities. Their purpose was to obtain first hand information about the effects of discrimination and segregation upon the victim, as well as upon the city as a whole. I think it is fair to say that the chapter is entitled to considerable credit for the progress New York has made in that field. The New York Chapter has completed a survey of discriminatory practices in resort advertising, submitting its findings to the New York State Commission Against Discrimination. It cooperated with the East Side Citizens' Committee in a survey of restaurant practices in New York City. A major effort of this chapter, too, was the report on police practices in New York City, completed in response to a request from several of the organizations com-
prising the New York Coordinating Committee on Police Practices. In addition to an analysis of some fifty incidents of police abuses which have taken place in this city within the past two years, the report views the problem in all its social, economic and political implications, and discusses also the constitutional rights of the victims and the immunity of police from prosecution.

In Boston, where the suburb of Dorchester was the scene of several flareups resulting from intergroup tensions, our chapter cooperated with the Jewish Community Council and the director of our Division of Youth Services in sponsoring a conference attended by lay and professional personnel of all the youth-serving agencies in greater Boston. Out of this conference have come a number of positive recommendations for human relations programs in these agencies.

In St. Louis, a special committee of chapter members, working with representatives of the Urban League, has begun a series of private meetings with owners and executives of department stores on non-discriminatory hiring in their establishments.

In the field of education, we are cooperating with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in one of the three test cases it is carrying to the courts in an attempt to broaden Supreme Court rulings which abolished segregation in graduate and professional schools. Expert testimony, including that of several university professors, was secured on the effect of segregation on the Negro student.

I do not want to leave the civil rights area without calling to your attention the striking 16 mm. educational film, The Challenge, written by the director of AJC's Film Division, and produced jointly by AJC and ADL. The Challenge was released under the sponsorship of some twenty organizations representing labor, education, religious, veterans, and student organizations. And at the Cleveland Annual Film Council in 1951, it was awarded the "Oscar" for the best film of the year in the field of adult education.

**Interreligious Activities**

Prior to 1951, as you doubtless recall, in the interreligious area, we worked closely and intensively with Christian educators, religious publishers, editors, and lesson writers on the preparation of Sunday school materials that would present an accurate picture of Jews and Judaism. In 1951, our emphasis has increasingly been on establishing lines of cooperation with Christian leadership education groups—those responsible for teacher training. Our scientific studies make it clear that not only the curriculum materials but the attitudes of those who attempt to use the materials are vital in the education of young children. Both in the manner of teaching about Christianity and Judaism, as well as in the substance of the publications used by church schools, it is gratifying to be able to report that positive attitudes toward individuals of different racial and religious backgrounds are increasingly evident.

I believe you will be interested in the recently initiated survey of religious films. Many of these, our study already indicates, contain distorted presentations of Jews and Judaism. As soon as the survey is completed, approaches will be made to our friends in the Protestant education field to see what can be done about rectifying this.

**Cooperation with Religious Leaders**

The close contacts established last year with the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches have been extended to their recently established Department of Inter-Group Education, with which, together with the Anti-Defamation League, we are now in almost daily consultation. This Department
makes significant use of the Committee's resources for material and information which it channels through 2,500,000 Protestant instructors to 27,000,000 Sunday school students.

Several meetings with religious leaders of the Protestant Church took place in 1951, for the purpose of discussing areas of cooperation and problems of inter-religious tension, and these meetings will continue in 1952. I think it may be pertinent to point out that our viewpoint is respected in such circles because the American Jewish Committee is known for its skillful and objective handling of community relations problems, and particularly those where the sensibilities of various religious groups are involved.

In advising local communities that the celebration of Christmas in the public schools is not an issue to be approached aggressively, for example, the Committee is motivated by the knowledge that Christmas, in America as elsewhere, has entered into the folkways of the nation, and is no longer regarded as exclusively a religious ritual.

On the other hand, on such a broad issue as released time in the public schools, the Committee has exerted many efforts to have this practice declared unconstitutional, as a violation of the traditional American separation between church and state.

Separation of Church and State

And this brings us directly into the field of church-state problems. We Jews, perhaps because we are more sensitive to the historic implications of the struggle, have constantly worried over the significance of any breach in the wall between church and state. Accordingly, we have taken forthright positions on issues such as released time, religious holiday observances in the schools, Federal aid to education, and similar matters. Our stand has been misrepresented by some who wish to create the impression that Jews, along with a handful of atheists, are primarily responsible for the church-state controversy today.

Of course, the implications in this are obvious and important because these statements are often accompanied by such charges as "secularism," "Godlessness," and these in turn, are frequently equated with communism. This is particularly evident in the current battle in connection with the public schools.

One of the more important developments in the church-state area during the year was the ruling of the New York Court of Appeals (6 to 1) that the New York State system of released time was constitutional. This ruling, handed down in the Zorach test case, in which we have been interested from the start, resulted in a thorough review by the Administrative Committee of our agency's position. After long and intensive discussion, it was decided that we should continue our role as "amicus curiae" when the Zorach case is pleaded in the United States Supreme Court for, in principle, the Committee stands firm in its view that released time is not only an infringement of the separation principle, but that it is divisive in its effect.

Additional support for our position may be forthcoming from some Protestant groups. At the recent meetings with Protestant leaders mentioned earlier, we clearly established that our concern in this field stems directly from, first, considerations of religious conscience; secondly, from our legitimate regard for the principle of separation of church and state; and, thirdly, from our belief in the unsoundness of the pedagogy involved in released time and similar practices. It does not, we have stressed, grow out of any antagonism toward religion.

Jewish Attitudes

In 1951, as in other years, we have not only been concerned with the attitudes of our non-Jewish neighbors, but also with our own attitudes—the attitudes of the
Jewish communities and of Jewish individuals. Our activity on all the matters I have mentioned, our reasons for becoming involved with them, are all essentially explainable in terms of our position with respect to the role and responsibility of Jews on the American scene.

We look upon America as our home. We have confidence in the promise of democratic ideals and institutions. We are desirous of sharing with our fellow Americans the rights, opportunities, and responsibilities that come with full integration into the life of our country. Implicit in this concept of free and wholehearted integration of Jews into American life, we firmly believe, is the retention and enrichment of Jewish religious, cultural, and intellectual values. And also implicit in this context, we believe, is the complete rejection both of separatism and assimilationism. We are opposed to the concept that the Jews are a separate enclave within America. We are opposed, just as strongly, to the concept that Jews should give up their identity and be swallowed up in the general milieu.

*Americanism and the Jewish Heritage*

To further this philosophy, we are publishing, under the direction of a special lay committee chaired by Herbert Ehrmann, a series of pamphlets entitled “This Is Our Home.” I am sure you will detect the significance of the name, for America is our home, indeed. Our roots are firm and deep here. We are not here on a temporary basis; certainly, we are not “in exile” here.

The first pamphlet in the series was titled *The American Pattern*. It has gone into a third edition, i.e., 40,000 copies are now in use throughout the country. Three pamphlets more were added to the list in 1951. Of these, *Group Life In America* has aroused the greatest discussion, propounding as it does the major theme that American Jews do not have and should not have a central authority for their communal endeavors. While not originally planned as such, this pamphlet, of which the first edition of 15,000 is already exhausted, presents dramatically the principles underlying our position vis-a-vis the Maclver Report.

*The Hands of Esau*, the fifth in the series, explodes the myth spread by the Communists that they offer any solution for the problems of minorities. Analyzing the experience of Jews in the Soviet Union, the booklet demonstrates the utter incompatibility between the ideologies of Judaism and of communism. The newest pamphlet, *Proclaim Liberty*, which you have just received, deals with the Judaic background inherent in the basic democratic concepts of our American traditions.

In conformity with the American Jewish Committee’s tenet that an understanding of our Jewish heritage is indispensable to that sense of identity which makes for a wholesome integrated life, we have made possible the writing and publication of a book presenting the findings of a sociological study of life in the shtetl, that is, in the small Jewish towns of Eastern Europe. This book, “Life Is With People,” published in February, 1951, by International Universities Press, and written by Mark Zborowski and Elizabeth Herzog, describes a culture that flourished for many centuries, and which was destroyed only a few short years ago in the Nazi holocaust. The material for the book was drawn from a study of East European Jews compiled by social scientists of the Columbia University project, Research in Contemporary Cultures. The project was inaugurated in 1947 by the late Professor Ruth Benedict under a grant from the U.S. Office of Naval Research.

During the past year, we also arranged for the first telecast in history of a complete religious service in a synagogue. Produced by the Committee in cooperation with Station WPIX, this telecast initiated a series of four such synagogue services shown on the television screen up and down the Eastern seaboard.

Our “Morning Chapel,” the weekly program we produce every Friday throughout the year over Station WABD, celebrated its third birthday in November, 1951. The Jewish portion of this series (which presents Protestant and Catholic religious
leaders on other days of the week) helps to bring the spiritual and ethical values of Judaism to an estimated audience of some 30,000,000 persons.

At this point, it is appropriate to mention the plans for the Tercentenary Celebration of Jewish Settlement in the United States, which is scheduled to take place from the fall of 1954 to the spring of 1955. For some time the American Jewish Historical Society had been preparing plans for this observance. Late in 1951, the American Jewish Committee was asked to help bring about the organization of a community-wide group that would handle this celebration. Ralph E. Samuel is chairman of the national Committee on Organization for this event and he will give you a detailed progress report during the course of this meeting. I shall merely state here that the Committee is determined that this event will be commemorated in such a manner that it will dramatize unforgettably—and in all parts of the country—what America has meant to the Jews, and what the Jews have meant to America.

Commentary

We can well take pride in the degree to which Commentary was accorded national and international recognition during 1951. Commentary articles have been so frequently reprinted in past years that its audience can now be said to number in the millions. The State Department, for example, has reprinted, translated, or broadcast nine Commentary articles in connection with its worldwide educational program, stating, as its reason, that the articles "so ably present the position of the democratic world."

This was also the year when the American Jewish Committee was introduced to the two million readers of Time as the publisher of Commentary, which Time described as "one of the best magazines in the U. S." In addition, Time quoted or discussed six different articles on separate occasions during the last twelve months. The Saturday Review of Literature and two leading Catholic weeklies, Commonweal and America, also featured Commentary in their pages, and the nine million readers of Reader's Digest read a digest of "The New Nazis of Germany," an article originally published in Commentary in January 1951. The New York Times, Herald-Tribune, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and the Washington Post were among the influential dailies which featured or called attention to Commentary articles.

Educators have hailed as a genuine contribution to academic freedom the article depicting "Scarsdale's Battle of the Books," as well as the piece entitled "Dangerous Textbooks," written by the AJC staff member, Edward Saveth. Thousands of reprints of these have been requested for use by citizens' groups determined to fight menacing textbook "purges," which are being attempted in a number of communities throughout the United States. Colleges and universities are increasingly using Commentary articles as a basis for classroom discussion. Finally, Jewish communal agencies and congregations representing all facets of Jewish thought and affiliation have turned more and more to Commentary's articles as source material on basic Jewish communal problems.

Scientific Research

Our entire program—whether directed to Jews or to Gentiles—is based upon facts, and wherever possible upon facts and insights gained from our continuing scientific research into the nature and dynamics of prejudice. You know, I am sure, of the publication in 1950 by Harper and Brothers, of the five-volume "Studies in Prejudice," which we commissioned and supervised.

I would like to read briefly from two reviews of those books which will give you some idea of the impact which they are having in this field. The first, by Dennis H. Wrong of Princeton University, appeared in The American Journal of Sociology:
"... certainly the fullest and most far-ranging contribution to our knowledge of prejudice which has ever been made. ... The extent to which the various authors of the series supplement one another's findings and insights, both in their contributions to the series and in earlier writings, is remarkable ... (and of) exemplary value to American social scientists."

The second review, by the Rev. John LaFarge, S.J., appeared in the Catholic magazine, America:

"... the ideas and methods which these books propound will undoubtedly greatly influence public policy in one way or another for decades to come. ... They will affect educational procedures, social action on behalf of improved human relations in our communities, as well as many aspects of our foreign policy."

Those "Studies" have been widely acclaimed not only in this country but, also, in Western Europe as among the most significant researches (some have even said "the most significant") yet produced in the area of prejudice.

More telling than the reviews and testimonials that have come to us, however, is the fact that we ourselves have witnessed new and independent research taking place in many universities. We have been told that many of these projects have grown out of, or are in some way related to, the work begun in our "Studies." In Sweden and in Germany, the new research procedures and pertinent findings of the five volumes are being compiled and translated for use by social scientists of those countries.

Among our more recent projects I want to mention particularly the study, completed in 1951, of the attitudes of rural residents begun two years ago in cooperation with the ADL and carried on by Michigan State College. The study revealed something of primary importance to us—namely, that anti-Semitism among our farm population is widespread though dormant. There is evidently a marked tendency on the part of this group to identify Jews with city people, and many farmers have a deep-rooted and traditional hostility toward city people who, they tend to believe, are in one way or another responsible for their difficulties.

There is obviously a need to carry on intensive educational work among these people, who are now barely reached by most of the present programs of our own and similar organizations. It is an area, however, that we have not been able to move into because of budgetary considerations. (I trust you will bear this in mind when you hear talk in your communities of the need for retrenchment in community relations work.)

There are many other areas of unmet needs. Work with Negro organizations to reduce anti-Semitism within that group is one such pressing need. But this is a digression for which I apologize. It is difficult for me, so immersed in the day-to-day work of the Committee, to resist this opportunity of sharing with you my concern that this vital program I have been outlining become, in some way, further jeopardized or circumscribed by lack of funds.

Our growing knowledge of group dynamics and the factors that make possible realistic attitude-education was particularly reflected, in 1951, in our work with such special groups as youth-serving organizations and labor unions.

Work with Youth Leaders

Notable among the achievements of the year in the youth field, for example, was the first joint Consultation on Human Relations convened by major youth agencies in New York City on December 5. This was the result of a proposal made to the National Social Welfare Assembly by the director of our youth services which, in turn, stemmed directly from our efforts to implement the recommendations of the 1950 White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Lay members of boards, professional staff, volunteer leaders, and youth delegates representing some twenty national youth-serving bodies considered together the
sole problem on the agenda, namely, "How Can National Agencies Work Individually and Collectively to Help Their Local Units Eliminate Prejudice and Discrimination and to Promote Intercultural, Interracial and Intergroup Relations?"

The American Jewish Committee was extremely active in the planning and execution of this highly concentrated one-day program. Dr. Leonard Mayo, chairman of the Mid-Century Committee on Children and Youth, served as chairman of the Consultation. Jacob Blaustein, your president, and Fred Lazarus, Jr., are both members, incidentally, of this Mid-Century Committee headed by Dr. Mayo.

Among the recommendations adopted by the Consultation was a suggestion that the White House Conference's findings relating to prejudice and discrimination be summarized and distributed to national and local youth agencies, and that the Education-Recreation Division of the National Social Welfare Assembly establish a Continuing Committee to work on problems of prejudice and discrimination with youth leaders.

Working with Labor Unions

Aided by the labor division of the American Jewish Committee, the National Labor Service, the rank-and-file American worker is becoming increasingly conscious of the relationship of prejudice and discrimination (no matter at whom directed) to his own job security. This has come about through the activities of the unions themselves (many of which have active Committees to Combat Intolerance), furthered by the National Labor Service, which in 1951 arranged and participated in numerous meetings, seminars, and conferences of labor educators on the subject of civil rights, fair employment practices, and group relations generally.

Within the last year or two some twenty new committees against discrimination have been established in international unions. All of these continue to seek our guidance and help and many, in fact, were formed as the direct result of the stimulus provided by us. It is important to realize here again, that when the United Automobile Workers (CIO) asks us to help produce a pamphlet for its membership on the subject of FEP—as it did recently—the UAW does so not because we are a "Jewish agency," or even because we have labor experts on our staff. The UAW recognizes that we are a community relations agency with understanding and know-how as to the best methods and procedures to arouse public concern about such issues.

Winning Labor's Support

The National Labor Service has also rendered yeoman service in mustering labor's support for Committee projects of national and international import. An outstanding example is the action taken by labor in urging U. S. Senate ratification of the United Nations Convention against Genocide. Presidents William Green of the AF of L, Philip Murray of the CIO, and Al Hayes of the International Association of Machinists (an AF of L affiliate with more than 800,000 members), led their unions in urging Senator Tom Connally to report the ratification bill out of committee. Union representatives also testified for ratification at the Senate hearings.

Liberalizing Immigration Laws

A report of major domestic issues, activities, and accomplishments during 1951 would hardly be complete unless it included at least a reference to the continuing struggle to educate Americans to the need for liberalizing the immigration laws of our country.

We did a number of things in the months gone by to awaken our citizenry to
the un-American concepts embodied in our present laws and in some of the measures proposed to alter these laws. We laid particular stress on the existing inflexible and unrealistic quota system; the racist clauses, which are not only fundamentally undemocratic but are also antagonistic to many of the peoples we are endeavoring to win as allies; the harsh and often unjust methods of dealing with aliens; and the insufficient provisions for fair hearings and for review of exclusion and deportation cases.

In 1951, as you know, Senator Patrick A. McCarran introduced omnibus immigration legislation which was blatantly restrictive, racially discriminatory, and destructive of cherished American traditions of civil liberties. The American Jewish Committee is a member of the Joint Conference on Alien Legislation, which includes twelve Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and non-sectarian groups, and which spoke out strongly against the McCarran bill. The Committee was also represented by former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind when, upon invitation, he testified on behalf of more than forty national Jewish religious, civic, welfare, and community relations organizations against the bill before a Joint Congressional Sub-Committee on Immigration.

Toward the close of the year, the American Jewish Committee prepared a fact sheet analyzing the McCarran bill together with the liberal immigration measure known as the Humphrey-Lehman bill. We have made these data available to countless civic and educational organizations in the hope that they might further a much needed informational program on this subject.

**AJC AND THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE**

For a very long while—since its founding in 1906 to be exact—the AJC has recognized foreign affairs as a major concern for American Jewry. In 1951, the AJC's interest in a number of problems bearing upon international relations was paralleled by a corresponding interest on the part of numerous other American voluntary groups—civic, religious, fraternal, ethnic, etc. Our own government, in fact, encourages and fully recognizes the importance and the influence of voluntary agencies such as ours in the shaping of our foreign policy.

The basic principles underlying the AJC's interest in foreign affairs remain unchanged. First, we seek to do our part in the promotion of democracy and freedom and international order, in accordance with the aims pursued by the American people in association with other free nations. Secondly, we seek to protect and advance the rights of Jews, to promote their security, and to safeguard Jewish life and institutions everywhere. These two goals are inextricably intertwined. Success in one means success in the other.

**The Problem of Germany**

To those of us who support this view, Germany offers a singular challenge and responsibility. In the fall of 1951, the American Jewish Committee made public an important documentary study of *The Recent Growth of Neo-Nazism in Europe*, based on information gathered by our Paris office staff and by many other reliable observers in and outside of Germany. At the same time, discussions were held in Washington between the U. S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy and AJC representatives, at which we submitted a series of suggestions for actions that Germans should be required to take as proof of their readiness to move in the direction of democracy as they prepare to regain their sovereignty.

Later, the chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Dr. Herman Gray, together with Zachariah Shuster, head of our Paris office, who will report directly to you this weekend on the situation in Europe, conferred in Germany with Mr. McCloy and other U. S. officials together with German leaders, including President
Theodor Heuss of the German Federal Republic and the prime ministers of Hesse and Bavaria. Dr. Gray proposed a series of concrete steps for the democratization of that country, and urged, among other things, that Germany take immediate, constitutional and legal action to eliminate the neo-Nazi organizations that have grown up since the end of World War II. These proposals included the adoption of constitutional and legal measures to eliminate neo-Nazism and its influence; the establishment of a Federal "watch dog" commission to strengthen civil rights and to enforce them; the initiation of broad and thorough pro-democratic educational campaigns and intergroup relations programs; the swift settlement of restitution claims, whether instituted by individual Jews through the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization or by Israel.

On September 27, 1951, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer declared before the Bonn Parliament that Germany intended to do all in its power "to make material and moral amends" for the "unspeakable crimes" perpetrated against Jews. Pledging "unrelenting" prosecution of anti-Semites and rapid and just completion of restitution, he said that an "essential task incumbent upon the educational authorities" is to make "the spirit of humane and religious tolerance . . . a reality among the entire German people."

This statement, which was ratified by the Bonn Parliament, was in direct accord with the policy which the American Jewish Committee has long sought to put into effect. Our policy is to stimulate Germans, German governmental agencies, and the Western powers themselves to exert a democratic influence on the Federal Government of Germany.

We cannot, of course, consider the Adenauer declaration to be anything more than a significant first step toward Germany's assumption of its moral and legal responsibilities for the unparalleled crimes committed by the Third Reich against the Jews of Europe. As we publicly stated at the time: "It now remains for the German people to make the spirit and letter of Chancellor Adenauer's words a reality. Without their action these expressions will be but a pious wish. We hope that what he has said will be taken to heart by the German nation and that his words will encourage and unite all Germans who loathe intolerance and the record of German Nazism, and make them strong enough to defeat those groups in Germany today who still preach racism, nationalism, and militarism."

Conference on Jewish Claims Against Germany

A Conference on Jewish Claims against Germany, sponsored by twenty Jewish organizations from nine countries, including the American Jewish Committee, was held in New York City on October 25 and 26. Despite the various shades of opinion represented, the official statement issued by the Conference bespoke the unanimous opinion of the sponsoring organizations that "the significance of the statement made by the Chancellor of the German Government on September 27, 1951 and approved by the West German Parliament, acknowledging that the unspeakable crimes committed during the Nazi regime impose on the German people the obligation to make amends, will be judged by the speed and extent of its implementation."

Jacob Blaustein, our president, was named to the executive committee of the Conference, and he will undoubtedly be a member of the group chosen to meet with Chancellor Adenauer and others to work out a basis for negotiating these claims.

A further development should be noted in connection with AJC's German program during 1951. The office of the U. S. High Commissioner for Germany and the State Department have agreed to a proposal that leading individuals and groups in Germany hold a conference on group relations which would focus and stimulate support for improving intergroup relations in Germany, and which would set up an agency sponsored by prominent Germans to promote these goals.
Hungarian Deportations

Concurrent with the rapid communization of the Iron Curtain countries, Hungary initiated a drastic deportation program early in 1951. Last summer the American Jewish Committee took the initiative in the American effort to end this mass evacuation of thousands of Hungarian citizens. The facts that had been garnered in our New York and Paris offices from letters from Hungary along with the testimony of refugees revealed that many Hungarian Jews were being affected. Accordingly, the National Community Relations Advisory Council, sparked by the AJC, resolved to place the matter before President Truman and the U. S. Department of State. Jacob Blaustein also wired Secretary of State Dean Acheson prior to the Foreign Ministers Conference asking that the Conference “consider the matter of mass deportations of thousands of citizens of Hungary of all faiths, and jointly call upon the Hungarian Government to discontinue and remedy these inhumane acts.”

Both President Truman and Secretary Acheson issued statements denouncing Hungary’s “infamous program of mass deportation,” and these protests were eventually followed by similar action on the part of Great Britain and France.

In August, Dr. Herman Gray appeared as the representative of Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations before the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the United Nations Economic and Social Council then meeting in Geneva and asked that appropriate measures be taken to end the mass evacuations, mainly of middle-class democratic elements known to be hostile to the present Communist regime in Hungary. Dr. Gray testified, over the objections of the Russian delegates, that some 24,000 to 35,000 persons had been affected to date; routed out of their homes on a few hours’ notice, transported to areas near the Soviet-Hungary border, and there compelled to live under most primitive conditions, at times at starvation level. As far as we now know, the Hungarian Government has since suspended large-scale deportation activities.

Aiding the Jews of Iraq

In the Middle East the situation of the Jews in Iraq was suddenly worsened in March 1951. In that month, the Iraqi parliament in a secret session passed a series of new laws which froze the assets of Jews registered for emigration to Israel, and severely penalized other Iraqi Jews outside of the country at the time on legitimate business unless they returned within sixty days. The day of May 31, 1951 was set as the termination date of legal emigration to Israel.

Again, therefore, your president conferred with U. S. government officials who asked the Iraqi government to give consideration to the plight of their Jewish citizens registered for emigration. Soon thereafter the termination date for leaving the country was indefinitely extended. As of now, more than 110,000 Iraqi Jews have settled in Israel.

In recent weeks we have been discussing with the U. S. State Department another serious situation in Iraq: namely, the arrest in the spring of 1951, of scores of Jews in Iraq on charges of treason, terrorist acts, and subversive political activities. Our Foreign Affairs Department in London, Paris, New York, and Washington gathered material, helped raise funds, and conferred with officials of the U. S., France, Great Britain, and several Moslem states and generally organized outside support—all in the effort to mitigate or postpone the especially severe sentences of those Jews convicted of terrorism. American Jewish Committee activities tended to focus around the death sentences of two Jews. As you know they were actually executed just a few days ago, but we have reason to believe that the twenty or more Jews convicted for other crimes will receive relatively light prison sentences.
Libya and Israel

For the Jews of Libya we performed a substantial service last year. We worked closely with the Community Council of Libyan Jews and United Nations officials, both here and abroad, on the formulation of human rights provisions for that country's new constitution. The measures suggested are designed to protect the 10,000 Jews in Libya by guaranteeing human rights for all, and by specifically providing for those civil and religious rights that would enable Jews to maintain their existing religious and cultural institutions. The significance of our effort in this matter lies in the fact that, if our recommendations are finally incorporated into the constitution of the newly independent Libya—and we have reason to believe most of them will be—it may possibly set a precedent for Tunisia and Morocco, in which case, these safeguards of general and Jewish rights may eventually affect the lives of some half-million Jews in that section of the world.

You will hear from our president during the course of this weekend of our continuing efforts in behalf of the state of Israel. I will not attempt to itemize the numerous ways we have been of assistance in furthering economic aid to that country and in providing guidance and advice in connection with the many economic and political problems that persisted there throughout 1951.

Last October, our Executive Committee, after a thoroughgoing review of the situation in and with respect to Israel, adopted a resolution which reaffirmed our traditional position of friendly aid to the new country, but stated clearly our opposition to any and all attempts on the part of American Jews to interfere in the political life of Israel. Similarly, we opposed any attempts on the part of non-American individuals or groups to interfere with the internal affairs of American Jews.

Although this resolution was in no sense a departure from our previously stated policy, it was misunderstood and criticized in many quarters—perhaps because it opposed so forthrightly the inclination of many Israelis to look upon Jews all over the world as constituting a "Jewish nation." To clarify our position for representatives of the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press, Mr. Blaustein convened a special press conference in November of this past year. The extensive and sympathetic treatment these papers subsequently accorded AJC activity and attitudes with respect to Israel has been most gratifying.

Latin America

In June of 1951, the Foreign Affairs Executive Committee recommended consideration of the desirability of conducting a consultative conference on Jewish affairs in the Americas for the purpose of developing a planned program of cooperation between the AJC and the Jewish communities of Latin America. It was felt that while 600,000 Jews of Latin America are relatively secure economically, they face a number of serious political and communal problems.

In December, at the request of the Committee on Latin American Affairs, Dr. Simon Segal, Director of our Foreign Affairs Department, left New York to tour the major Latin American Jewish communities together with Maximo Yagupsky, AJC's Latin American representative, with the purpose of sounding out local opinion as to the advisability and feasibility of holding such a conference, as well as of learning at first hand the difficulties confronting Jewry in those countries. Dr. Segal, in the course of this Annual Meeting, will report to you both his findings and his recommendations.
United Nations

Throughout 1951, we have continued to promote the goals and objectives of the United Nations. Incidentally, since 1945, our participation in the promotion of United Nations Week in cooperation with the American Association for the United Nations, has been a major project. With each succeeding year the Association has assumed more and more of the costs of the operation. In 1951, though new and broader-scale projects were undertaken which more than tripled the total cost, the Committee bore less than one-third of the expense involved. This is a good example, in my view, of what happens in so many efforts that are initially stimulated by us and which, upon gaining impetus, are eventually taken over entirely by the co-sponsoring organization. This is truly "pump-priming"!

We are, of course, primarily interested in securing and advancing universal human rights. Through our membership in the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations we enjoy consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and, since last summer, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Through these arms of the United Nations we have worked closely with every branch of the world security organization in every area vital to the welfare and security of mankind in general and Jews in particular.

Genocide Convention Campaign

In the past year, we conducted a renewed campaign to enlist public support for ratification by the United States Senate of the United Nations Convention Against Genocide. Our 1951 campaign was launched on January 12 of last year, when the Convention, which has since been ratified by thirty-six nations, became part of international law. On that day a press conference was held in the office of the International Law Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. It was attended by Adolph A. Berle, Jr., formerly Assistant Secretary of State and chairman of the International Law Committee, Jacob Blaustein, and Professor Raphael Lemkin of Yale University Law School whose efforts to bring genocide under the ban of international law are world-renowned. They jointly stated that non-ratification by the United States would deprive America of a powerful weapon in the struggle against Communism and would most assuredly invite propaganda attacks.

In this effort, we have also maintained close contact with the United States Committee for a U.N. Genocide Convention, to which we loaned a staff member for the purpose of coordinating the activities of the many agencies working in this area.

"Figaro" Incident

Finally, there is one incident I want to tell you about because it demonstrates so dramatically the interrelatedness of the foreign and domestic scenes, and the importance of our having "eyes and ears," as it were, throughout the world.

You may recall that last February, Figaro, a prominent conservative paper in Paris, reproduced a letter, allegedly from the late President Roosevelt to the president of Young Israel, an Orthodox group. In this "letter," President Roosevelt purportedly asked the president of Young Israel to act as mediator between himself and Stalin in a plan to divide up the world between the United States and Russia. This was patently ridiculous, and within three or four days, Mr. Shuster, the head of our Paris office, secured a repudiation of that letter. Yet a few days later, the Hearst press in the United States, on the front page of every newspaper in its
chain, from Boston to Los Angeles, printed the "letter" accompanied by a front page editorial vouching for its authenticity.

With the information we had already accumulated from Mr. Shuster, we promptly called together the other agencies within the National Community Relations Advisory Council. Conferences were arranged with the Hearst organization which then became convinced of the forgery. The following Sunday, again on the front page of every Hearst paper, an acknowledgment was published to the effect that the letter was a forgery, and that Young Israel was an honorable patriotic American organization.

**Conclusion**

I have spoken of the importance of having "eyes and ears" throughout the world. But these, realistically, would be of small benefit if we did not have those same visual and auditory faculties in our own country. Indeed our entire operation—all the things I have been telling you about—has been immeasurably furthered by our chapters who are truly the domestic "eyes and ears" of our organization.

Our chapters have given us the aid and understanding that stem from an intimate acquaintance with the needs of the communities. They have reported local pressures and problems, and have helped us plan programs to meet those problems. Above all, they have enthusiastically participated in the programs we have evolved together.

There have been weaknesses, as well as strengths, in our 1951 efforts with the chapters. Some of these we will have an opportunity to talk about in the hours we have set aside during this weekend for frank and forthright discussions of problems facing our chapters as they attempt to become increasingly dynamic and effective forces in the community.

When one reads the "news" sheets of Conde McGinley, when one hears of the horrible happenings in Miami, when one sees the demagogue and the hatemonger attempting, often with some success, to take advantage of the strains and the stresses of these troubled days, one might very easily feel discouraged. But, on the other hand, when we see the National Council of the Christian Churches, the American Legion, and many other organizations across the country join in this fight, when we see nine states and twenty-four cities adopt some form of FEPC legislation, and, above all, when we realize that these questions, which trouble us so deeply, also weigh heavily on the American conscience, then we can justly feel that we are on the verge of a tremendous step forward toward the realization of the dream of the founders of this great nation.

Certainly, this is no time to relax our efforts. We can not stand still. If we do not go forward, we will inevitably move backward. Therefore, let us persist in our efforts toward the realization of our ultimate goal—the establishment, not only in America but throughout the world, of the principle of the sanctity and inviolability of the individual human being.
REPORT OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR

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(as of August 1, 1952)

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1 Term expires in 1953. 2 Term expires in 1954. 3 Term expires in 1955.
THE SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

The sixty-fourth Annual Meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America was held on April 13, 1952 at the Majestic Hotel, Broad Street & Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa., at three o’clock in the afternoon. The Honorable Louis E. Levinthal, president of The Society, presided. In attendance were members of The Society, members of the Publication Committee, and members of the Board of Trustees.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee takes pleasure in presenting this report. We unanimously recommend the following as officers, honorary officers, and trustees of The Society, the officers and honorary officers for a one-year term, and the trustees for terms as designated.
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JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, President (4th term)
JUSTICE HORACE STERN, 1st Vice President (41st term)
EDWIN WOLF, 2nd, 2nd Vice President (4th term)
SOL SATINSKY, Treasurer (4th term)
LESSER ZUSSMAN, Secretary and Executive Secretary (3rd term)
DR. JACOB R. MARCUS, Chairman, Publication Committee (4th term)
DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL, Editor (14th term)

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The following trustees have completed their terms of office and are recommended for re-election to three-year terms:

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BERNARD L. FRANKEL, Philadelphia
HOWARD S. LEVY, Philadelphia
SIDNEY NEUMANN, Philadelphia
FRANK J. RUBENSTEIN, Baltimore
HOWARD A. WOLF, Philadelphia

We also recommend the election of Myer Feinstein of Philadelphia for a three-year term.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN WOLF, 2nd, Chairman
SAMUEL H. DAROFF
JACOB C. GUTMAN
KURT PEISER
FRANK J. RUBENSTEIN

The report of the Nominating Committee was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Jacob R. Marcus reported as chairman of the Publication Committee and submitted a list of the titles to be considered for 1953 publication, as well as titles
to be considered for future publication. In addition, Dr. Marcus outlined a number of important projects which were under consideration by The Society. He expressed his thanks for the cooperation which he received during the past year from the Editor and members of the Publication Committee.

Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, 2nd Vice President, introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Jewish Publication Society discontinued its operation of the Hebrew Press on June 15, 1950 in order to separate its commercial activities from the basic purposes of The Society and

WHEREAS, such change has proven to be to the advantage of The Society and

WHEREAS, the building at 222 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., was purchased primarily to house the Hebrew Press and

WHEREAS, such facilities are now in excess of The Society's needs,

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the officers be authorized to terminate the existing lease at its expiration on June 15, 1953 and seek a purchaser for the equipment of the Press and the building, either separately or in combination. In seeking a purchaser, preference is to be given to the firm of Maurice Jacobs, Inc., present lessee, if their bid is in line with other offers.

The resolution was adopted by the membership.

Mr. Sol Satinsky, Treasurer, gave the financial report for the year 1951 (as printed on page 600). The report of the Treasurer was accepted unanimously. A motion was made and accepted commending the Treasurer for his extreme devotion to a very difficult task.

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Lesser Zussman, made a brief report in which he outlined the expanding activities of The Society.

The membership meeting received official greetings from a representative of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, who congratulated The Society on the fine technical production of its books.

The President, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, submitted his annual report (as printed below).

The meeting was adjourned at 5 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Lesser Zussman,
Secretary

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR THE YEAR 1951

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is gratifying to be able to record that during 1951 our Society continued to maintain the high literary and scholarly standards that have generally marked its publications throughout the sixty-four years of its existence. Handicapped though we were by lack of adequate capital funds, as our Treasurer's Report indicates, we nevertheless managed to produce a well-balanced list of nine new books, all useful and valuable, informative and interesting, each an important contribution to Jewish literature.

Publication Program

For 1951:

The first title of 1951 was Man Is Not Alone, by Abraham Joshua Heschel, which was copublished with Farrar, Straus and Young. Originally scheduled for
publication in 1950, this volume appeared in March, 1951. Of our first edition of
4,500 copies, 4,442 were sold and distributed during the year, and a second print-
ing was required to meet the demand.

The second title of the year was Stories and Fantasies, by Emil Bernhard Cohn,
translated by Charles Reznikoff. Published in April, with a first edition of 5,300
copies, 3,188 were sold and distributed during 1951.

The third title was American Jewry and the Civil War, by Bertram W. Korn.
Of the first edition of 5,240 copies, off the press in June, 3,195 were sold and dis-
tributed as of the end of the year.

The fourth title was Room for a Son, a novel by Robert D. Abrahams, published
in August. Of the first printing of 4,000 copies, 2,344 were sold and distributed
during 1951.

The fifth title was Judaism and Modern Man, by Will Herberg, which we co-
published with Farrar, Straus and Young in September. Of our first edition of
2,741 copies, 2,439 were sold and distributed by the end of the year, and a second
printing is under way.

The sixth title was Volume I of Early American Jewry, by Jacob Rader Marcus,
which came off the press in December. Of the 4,300 copies printed, 2,084 were
immediately sold and distributed.

The seventh title was Social and Religious History of the Jews, by Salo Wittmayer
Baron, copublished with Columbia University Press. Of the seven planned volumes
of this work, the first two appeared late in December, 1951. Of our first edition of
2,434 copies, 2,193 were immediately sold and distributed. A second printing of
these two volumes is required to meet the demand of our members.

The eighth title, and the ninth book, of the year (although it actually came off
the press in January, 1952), was Volume 53 of the American Jewish Year Book,
published in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee. Of our 3,054 copies,
2,470 were immediately distributed.

For 1952:

Largely because of The Society's budgetary limitations, our publication program
for 1952 includes but seven new books. I feel confident, however, that the list is
sufficiently diversified to assure our members an interesting selection:

American Jewish History—Early American Jewry, Volume II, by Jacob R. Marcus.
The first volume published in 1951 dealt with the Jews of New York, New Eng-
land and Canada. In this final volume the author treats of the Jews in Pennsylvania
and the South.

Historical Fiction—The Last Revolt, by Joseph Opathoshu, translated from the
Yiddish by Moshe Spiegel. An account of Rabbi Akiba and his time, related to
Bar Kokhba's war to emancipate the Jews from the Roman yoke.

Biography—Don Isaac Abravanel, by Benzion Natanyahu. A biography of the
distinguished statesman, financier, and philosopher who sacrificed his influential
position in Spain to follow his fellow-Jews into exile.

Religion—Fallen Angels, by Bernard J. Bamberger. A study of the myths sur-
rounding Satan in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and the contemporary impli-
cations of the Devil concept in modern Jewish thought.

Fiction—Unambo, by Max Brod, translated from the German by Ludwig Lewi-
sohn. A novel with Israel during wartime as its locale.

Juvenile—Stories of King David, by Lillian S. Freehof. A fascinating collection of
tales drawn from Ginzberg's Legends of the Jews, one of our outstanding publica-
tions.

Jewish Facts and Figures—Volume 54 of the American Jewish Year Book.

Reprints

During 1951 we reprinted 1,500 copies of Hanukkah, the Feast of Lights, bring-
ing the total to 7,500 copies in print. We reprinted 6,400 copies of Mortimer J.
Publication Distribution

During 1951 we distributed 79,878 books in the normal course of our business, as compared with 81,493 so distributed in 1950. During the latter year we disposed of many of our overstocked volumes in an extensive "remainder sale" by means of which we distributed 56,217 additional volumes. The Bible continues, of course, to be our most popular publication. In 1951 we distributed 23,319 copies of the Bible, as compared with 16,866 during the preceding year.

The Pulpit and Family Bible

The need for an elegantly bound edition of our Bible in quarto size suitable for pulpit and family use had long been felt, but the cost of its production was far beyond our financial means. During 1951, however, the Army, Navy, and Air Force of the United States placed an order with The Society for 300 copies of clothbound Bibles for use by our Jewish chaplains. With this as an incentive, we prepared a special edition of 750 copies attractively bound in a number of colors of morocco. The initial demand for these handsome Bibles on the part not only of synagogues and organizations, but also of individual members of our Society, has been most encouraging.

Membership Statistics and Membership Campaigns

Our membership enrollment in 1951 was 8,712, of which 1,587 were new members. This represents a reduction of 767 from our total membership of 9,479 in 1950, when we had 2,118 new members. Of the total of 8,712 members, 4,268 paid dues of $5.00; 3,594 paid $11.25; 359 paid $22.50; 231 paid $25.00; and 258 paid $50.00 or more. The regrettable decrease in our enrollment of new members was apparently due to the slight increase in our rates of dues, an increase necessitated by the mounting costs of book production.

It should be pointed out that the $5.00 dues is intended for "introductory members" who receive but two volumes, and that regular annual members pay a minimum of $11.25 for which they may select five of our publications.

It is obvious that we must concentrate our efforts upon increasing our memberships in all categories. Groups of individuals in various communities throughout the country have been enlisted for volunteer service in stimulating increased membership. The Executive Board of the New York Board of Rabbis recently adopted a resolution calling upon every rabbi to give wholehearted cooperation to the membership campaign of The Society in New York City. It is expected that time will be afforded to representatives of The Society to acquaint groups within the synagogues with the program of The Society. It is hoped that thus thousands of synagogue members now unaffiliated with The Society will be persuaded to enroll in our ranks.

Jewish Book Council and In Jewish Bookland

The Society is proud of the leading part played by Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen, a member of our Publication Committee and the author of one of our most popular works, as president of the Jewish Book Council of the National Jewish Welfare
Board, which sponsors Jewish Book Month. We are also gratified to note that Dr. Solomon Grayzel, the Editor of The Society, who had previously served as president of the Council, is now the editor of *In Jewish Bookland*, published by the Council.

**Board of Trustees and Officers**

I am sincerely appreciative of the assistance and support I have received from my fellow-officers, from the Board of Trustees and our Executive Committee. We are particularly indebted to our Treasurer, Mr. Sol Satinsky, for his stewardship of our finances during this critical period. He was determined that The Society operate without incurring further deficits. I am pleased to report that with his constant guidance and with the full cooperation of our officers and Board of Trustees, Mr. Lesser Zussman, our devoted and efficient Executive Secretary, so managed our business affairs that for the first time in a number of years The Society in 1951 earned an operating profit.

**Publication Committee**

Obviously even more significant and important than the business management of our Society is the work of the Publication Committee. In the final analysis, the measure of the success or failure of The Society is determined not by our balance sheet or our profits and losses, but rather by the quality of the books we publish from year to year. That our books have received and merited general acclaim is due largely to the wholehearted cooperation of the distinguished members of our Publication Committee, whose recommendations have almost invariably been adopted by our Board of Trustees. We are particularly grateful to the gifted chairman of the Committee, Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, and to our capable Editor, Dr. Solomon Grayzel, who have dedicated themselves to the task of helping The Society turn out the best books of Jewish interest we can possibly produce.

**Necrology**

During the year 1951 we lost Arthur Szyk, the illustrator of *Pathways Through the Bible*, noted artist and zealous champion of the Jewish people and its culture. We also mourn the passing of Racie Friedenwald Adler, the devoted wife of Dr. Cyrus Adler, one of the founders and long a guiding spirit of The Society.

**The Society Faces the Future**

In an address delivered in 1921, Dr. Samuel Schulman, at present the oldest member of our Publication Committee, declared: "The Society's record of service is incomparable. It would be no exaggeration to say that in what it has already done it has provided for English-speaking people the necessary wherewithal for a liberal Jewish education." During the three decades that have since elapsed, The Society has added many significant volumes of genuine merit to its extensive library.

An examination of the contents of our recently published catalogue, attractively printed in a new and convenient format, will confirm the judgment of Dr. Schulman that the domain of The Society has ever been "the literature of the Jew of all times and lands," that "nothing that was of the Jewish spirit or that worthily presented any aspect of Jewish life anywhere was alien to its enterprise," and that "it thus became the spokesman to English readers of the soul of the Jew."

The list of our publications may be loosely divided into two categories: first,
intellectual and scholarly, religious and ethical, historical and biographical works; and second, artistic and literary, poetical and belletristic works. Rare indeed is the book that is both literary and scholarly, both artistic and intellectual. I think it may fairly be stated, however, that our Society has published a fair number of such works of genius. Generally, every publisher—and our Society is no exception in this regard—must be content to produce either a solid, instructive, and informative volume, on the one hand, or an aesthetically satisfying, emotionally pleasing one, on the other. Our Society, I believe, may be proud of its record in both these classes of its publications.

It is a matter of common knowledge that it is quite impossible to publish scholarly works without incurring a substantial loss, even when the books are sold at normal trade prices. An authoritative study recently made of 184 titles published from 1935 to 1945 by seven learned societies and ten university presses disclosed that only about 60 per cent of the cost was returned from sales (Joseph Katz, "The Scholarly Publishing Problem," The American Scholar, Spring 1952). Our Society has been committed to the proposition that good and important books of Jewish interest, written with clarity and in good English style, deserve publication even if they must necessarily entail a financial loss.

The founders of The Jewish Publication Society had the understanding to realize that the strength of the Jewish spirit throughout the centuries has been largely drawn from the writing and reading of books and that the future of Jewry lies in its willingness to carry on the scholarly and literary traditions of its past. They realized, of course, that books alone cannot be expected to accomplish the whole task of enriching and ennobling the life of English-speaking Jews. They were therefore no less interested in establishing all types of educational institutions for the preservation and advancement of Jewish values, but they understood that without good books all our other cultural efforts may prove futile.

As we approach The Society's sixty-fifth anniversary next year, we must understand that all we have done thus far in the production of Jewish literature is but a beginning. I am convinced that there is a vast untapped reservoir of intellectual and spiritual strength in the Jewish community of this country which has not yet been adequately directed along constructive channels. As the new State of Israel becomes more and more economically independent and spiritually creative, we have the right to anticipate that our own energies in this country will be left free for a concomitant development of learning, culture, and spirit in American Jewish life. All of us who are sincerely Jewish "survivalists," who believe that there are values in Jewish life worth transmitting to our children living in America—just as the State of Israel will, we hope, perpetuate those values for the Jews living there—will inevitably recognize that there is an urgent need of a philosophic basis for our communal life in this country. They will also perceive that such a foundation for our survival must rest on our cultural and spiritual heritage which all Jews—in Israel and in the Diaspora—share in common. We are convinced that unless the children of Israel—not only in the State of Israel but throughout the world—remain the Am ha-Sefer, the "People of the Book," there is little likelihood that we shall find the spiritual energy so essential to guide and sustain us and give significance and meaning to our life as Jews.

The Society has always had as its primary objective the revitalization of Jewish culture. To paraphrase what Alexander Smith said about civilization generally, the Jewish "world is not so much in need of new thoughts as that when the thought handed down to us from the past grows old and worn with usage it should, like current coin, be called in and, from the mint of genius, be reissued fresh and new."

That is precisely what The Society has achieved in a number of the outstanding volumes we have already published. That is what we hope to achieve through the publication of many books now under consideration by our Editor and the Publication Committee. But to quote again from Dr. Schulman's address: "While we
are rich in plans we are poor in purse. No institution in this country, considering its service, has received such feeble support as has been given to our Society. It is time that the intelligence of American Jewry realize what it owes to our Society. It is time that it earnestly resolve to provide us with funds which are indispensable for the carrying to success of the enterprises we now have in hand." What was said in 1921 is even more cogent today.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis E. Levinthal, President
### TREASURER’S REPORT

#### COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1951</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1950</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 7,986.45</td>
<td>$ 7,493.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>Notes receivable</td>
<td>2,400.00</td>
<td>6,530.89</td>
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<td>Inventories</td>
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<td>Loan to Classics Fund</td>
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<td>Building</td>
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<td>67,899.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plates, copyrights, plant and equipment</td>
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<td>2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid publication costs</td>
<td>14,429.58</td>
<td>9,232.16</td>
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<td>Prepaid insurance</td>
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<td>Prepaid interest</td>
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<td>Due from employees</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$209,161.86</strong></td>
<td><strong>$197,572.22</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1951</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1950</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>$ 37,298.77</td>
<td>$ 37,575.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans payable</td>
<td>14,125.00</td>
<td>22,500.00</td>
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<td>Loans from funds</td>
<td>26,845.56</td>
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<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>39,007.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customers’ deposits</td>
<td>470.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
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<td>701.50</td>
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<td>Withholding taxes</td>
<td>808.40</td>
<td>586.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage payable</td>
<td>17,500.00</td>
<td>21,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus reserves</td>
<td>6,518.47</td>
<td>10,143.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>65,169.52</td>
<td>42,619.96</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$209,161.86</strong></td>
<td><strong>$197,572.22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### COMPARATIVE PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ended</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1951</th>
<th>Dec. 31, 1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$ 87,305.78</td>
<td>$ 94,655.44</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
<td>5,244.78</td>
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<td>Special contribution from Trustees Fund</td>
<td>16,600.00</td>
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<td>Sales</td>
<td>104,022.53</td>
<td>78,291.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent received</td>
<td>4,999.92</td>
<td>2,916.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>148.41</td>
<td>148.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>3,587.61</td>
<td>3,390.13</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$221,909.03</strong></td>
<td><strong>$203,172.05</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses and publication costs</td>
<td>199,359.47</td>
<td>200,617.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit for year</td>
<td><strong>$ 22,549.56</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,554.42</strong></td>
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