During the period under review (July 1, 1957, through June 30, 1958) the pace of Australian economic expansion began to decrease. As prices rose, money became scarcer and unemployment rose slightly. However, industrial expansion continued, as did government encouragement of immigration.

The Liberal and Country party coalition remained in power under Prime Minister Robert G. Menzies. The opposition Labor party, under Herbert V. Evatt, was weakened by its continued internal divisions, which in 1956 had resulted in the emergence of a third party, the Democratic Labor party.

Jewish Population and Immigration

The Australian population was estimated at 9,847,471. The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) estimated the Australian Jewish figure in 1957 at 64,000; in the 1954 census, 48,436 persons declared themselves Jewish. Since a reply to the question of religion was not obligatory, about 10 per cent of the population did not answer it. That proportion, and known increases through immigration since 1954, would suggest an estimate for the Jewish population of just under 60,000. During 1957 the increase through immigration was 2,454; from January 1958 through May 1958 it was 722.

During 1957–58 most Jewish immigrants—the largest group in recent years—came from Hungary as a result of the 1956 revolt. Poland, England, Egypt, and Israel also contributed immigrants, in that order. A few came from other European countries.

Australia’s immigration program, which began at the end of World War II, continued. About half the immigrants came from Britain and the other half mainly from Holland, Germany, and southern Europe. Jewish efforts to bring immigrants from Egypt, North Africa, and other Arab countries were hampered by the “White Australia” policy which excluded migrants not of European origin. However, permits were granted to a number of former North African Jews of European origin, and to some immigrants from Egypt who were close relatives of Australian Jews.

There was little difficulty in finding employment for skilled immigrants. During the year it became more difficult to place the unskilled, and the employment sections of the welfare societies conducted advertising campaigns in the Jewish press to make Jewish employers aware of the problem.

Ninety per cent of the Jews in Australia lived in Sydney and Melbourne, and about five per cent in other provincial capitals. About 56 per cent of the general population lived in metropolitan areas of the six Australian states.

Jewish organizations encouraged immigrants to go to smaller Jewish com-
communities, thus stimulating Jewish life there. The most successful effort in this direction was the settlement of over 90 immigrants, mainly from Egypt, in Adelaide.

**Social Services**

Hostels run by the Jewish welfare societies in Melbourne and Sydney each housed about 150 immigrants until they secured permanent accommodations. Immigrants were also assisted in securing positions and acquiring businesses. Funds for this purpose came in large part from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (CJMCAG) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

The welfare societies in Melbourne and Sydney also supplied trained social workers to help migrants with problems of rehabilitation, family relations, mental health, and adjustment to their new environment. In this work, they cooperated with other social agencies in the general community.

In Sydney, the sheltered workshop of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, in its fourth year of operation, enabled a hundred aged men and women to enjoy social activities, supplement their income, and usefully employ their free time.

The Australian branch of the United Restitution Organization (URO) processed claims submitted against the West German government through the end of the claims period (April 1, 1958). By June 1958 it had helped to secure approval of claims of about 8 million marks for Nazi victims residing in Australia.

**Jewish Education**

The New South Wales Jewish Education Board, which in January 1957 had appointed the Rev. Tovia Rafalowich (formerly of Edinburgh) as educational director, made strong efforts to increase the number of pupils, find new class rooms, engage more teachers, and further their training.

Mt. Moriah College in Sydney, a day elementary school with 160 students, planned to erect a new building and provide secondary education. The existing building would be converted into the first Jewish boarding school. Mt. Scopus College in Melbourne, whose new quarters had been completed the previous year, now had over 700 pupils. Altogether there were about 1,000 pupils in Jewish day schools, including yeshivot in Caulfield (Melbourne) and Bondi (Sydney).

Nearly 2,000 children received religious instruction in Hebrew classes, from three to six hours a week. In addition, approximately 5,400 children were taught in scripture classes, sponsored by the state boards of education, which were given in state schools under a system called "right of entry classes." The need for more day schools was stressed during the visit in September 1957 of Jacob Halevy, a British Jewish educator and communal worker who came to Australia to make an appeal for funds for Orthodox religious-education institutions. Most funds for Jewish education came from appeals to the community or from congregational resources, rather than from school fees.
Religious Life

There was further growth in the activities of suburban Orthodox congregations. In Sydney, the North Shore congregation dedicated its new synagogue, a modern structure, on September 15, 1957, in the presence of the governor of New South Wales, Sir Eric Woodward. The South Head congregation, whose members were mostly former residents of Great Britain, also opened a new building in September 1957. In Melbourne a new synagogue was opened at Elwood. The Central Synagogue in Sydney's suburb of Bondi prepared the site for a large modern synagogue, to be built during 1959. Liberal Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne also neared completion. Liberal congregations in Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth extended their activities, especially in the field of religion classes. The visit in February 1958 of Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, leading United States figure in Progressive Judaism, did much to stimulate activities. Melbourne Liberal Rabbi Herman Sanger paid an extended visit to the United States during 1957–58 on a lecture tour of congregations and universities.

In August 1957 the Great Synagogue in Sydney opened an 8,000-volume Jewish reference library in honor of the late Rabbi Leib A. Falk, who had compiled nearly all the works it contained. At the same time the synagogue's new minister, Rabbi Ronald Lubofsky, arrived in Australia from London. The Adelaide Hebrew Congregation also engaged a new minister.

Cultural Activity

There was an increase in discussions, lectures, and symposia, which were sponsored by various synagogues, youth organizations, and the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO). Receptions were organized for visiting Jewish personalities such as the young Israel pianist, Daniel Barenboim, who visited Australia from June through October 1958.

The four principal Jewish weeklies in the country, all privately owned, the Australian Jewish News and the Jewish Herald in Melbourne and the Sydney Jewish News and the Australian Jewish Times in Sydney, continued publication. Two carried a Yiddish supplement and one had a subsidiary publication in Yiddish. In addition numerous periodicals were published, mainly by the various congregations.

The Eternal Flame, a second book by Rabbi Rudolf Brasch of Temple Emanuel in Sydney, was published in May 1958. The book dealt with the foundation and symbols of Judaism and the influence of Judaism on Christian civilization and humanity.

The first comprehensive Australian encyclopedia, published in May 1958, contained a four-and-a-half page section on Australian Jewry.

Discrimination and Anti-Semitism

Australian Jews had full civic and political rights and benefits. The only anti-Semitic manifestations reported came from the Hungarian-language magazines Nemset Szolgala and Hungarista Mozgalom published by an alleged
Hungarist (pro-Nazi) group. These contained virulent anti-Semitic comments. At the end of June 1958, the magazines were referred to Australian authorities for a check on the originators. It was also reported that overseas anti-Semitic material would be made available by application to a Queensland resident.

There was no overt discrimination in employment, housing, or education.

**Community Organization and Activity**

The roof organization of Australian Jewry, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), consisted of boards of deputies in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South and Western Australia. The sixth state, Tasmania, was also represented on the ECAJ through its local congregation. Matters of general concern to Australian Jews were channeled through the state bodies to the ECAJ for reference to the Australian government or overseas Jewish organizations, such as CJMCAG and the World Jewish Congress (WJC). The ECAJ protested to the Australian government against the Arab boycott, anti-Semitism in Soviet Russia, and the visit in February 1958 of Alfred Krupp to Australia. The ECAJ also maintained close contact with the Israel legation.

Headquarters of the ECAJ were in Sydney, but under a constitutional provision for alternation of headquarters, they were slated to return to Melbourne in August 1958.


The CJMCAG allocation to Australia for 1958 was £A96,150 ($215,376). Most of this went to Jewish welfare societies for rehabilitation of victims of Nazi persecution. Grants were also given to a number of the Jewish welfare and relief societies in Melbourne, Sydney, and other cities.

**Israel and Zionism**

Tenth-anniversary celebrations for the State of Israel were held in all Jewish communities.

A public gathering held in April 1958 in Melbourne, and addressed by the former United States ambassador to Israel, James G. McDonald, was attended by 7,000 people. A mass meeting in the Sydney Town Hall was addressed by Harold E. Holt, Federal minister for labor and industry and deputy leader of the government in Parliament, and Herbert V. Evatt, the Federal leader of the Labor Party, as well as by McDonald.

Jewish newspapers brought out special editions in connection with the celebrations. A sports festival was held in June 1958 at the Sydney Sportsground to celebrate Israel Independence Day.

The 1958 United Israel Appeal had reached a total of about £A150,000 ($336,000) by the end of June, the largest total since 1948. The former Israel minister of posts, Joseph Burg, was the principal appeal emissary.
The Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand in January 1958 decided to transfer its headquarters to Melbourne after a four-year stay in Sydney. Joseph Solvey, an aviation engineer, succeeded Max Freilich of Sydney as president.

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) sought to expand its coverage, especially through the blue collection boxes. Its revenue for the period under review was £A130,000 ($291,200) from all sources, including the blue boxes and special functions. JNF headquarters, after fourteen years in Melbourne, were transferred to Sydney in March 1958. Paul Ungar was elected president. A new Federal director, Joseph Glucklich, arrived from Israel to succeed Kurt Fraenkel.

Three youth shelihim (emissaries) of the Jewish Agency continued training Zionist youth groups in youth leadership, organization, and culture.

The Zionist Federation maintained a training farm (haksharah) at Shepparton near Melbourne, and from there a number of young people went to Israel as immigrants.

In addition to those who went after the training period on the farm, a number went as scholarship students; others went directly after training by the Betar movement.

The Australian public was favorably inclined towards Israel, and Australia's only Middle East representation at the end of June 1958 was its legation at Tel Aviv.

The Israel legation maintained offices in Sydney. The minister, Max Nurock, retired in May and left Australia after having held the post for five years. Zeev Dover, first secretary and consul, served as chargé d'affaires, pending the arrival of Minister-designate Moshe Yuval, formerly director of the research division of the Israel Foreign Ministry.

In May 1958 the legation arranged for an exhibition of modern Israeli paintings in the principal art galleries of the major cities in connection with the tenth anniversary of Israel. The experiment during 1954-56 of Dr. Solomon Goldberg in transplanting Australian corriedales (sheep) to Israel was regarded as successful, and in March 1958 he chartered the former Antarctic vessel Thala Dan for a further transport of 1,050 sheep to Elath.

Commerce Minister Phinehas Sappir headed an Israel trade mission which visited the country in March 1958.

**Personalia**

In the honors list of Queen Elizabeth II, issued on the occasion of her birthday on June 9, 1958, two prominent Jews were included. They were John Goulston, 89, "elder statesman" of Australian Jewry and a former president of the Great Synagogue in Sydney, and Ray Rosenberg, president of the Montefiore Jewish Home for the Aged in Sydney. Both received the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire).

*Ernest J. Burger*