American Jewish Year Book
American Jewish Year Book 1968

Prepared by THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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THE AMERICAN rabbi occupies a strategic, not to say leading, position in the American Jewish community. That position is closely tied to American Jewry's increasing concern about its survival in an open society. Charles S. Liebman's "The Training of American Rabbis" sets forth and analyzes what the major Orthodox, Reform, and Conservative rabbinical seminaries are doing to prepare their students for the rabbinate.

Based primarily on a questionnaire sent to first- and last-year students in the seminaries, Professor Liebman's study is an examination and appraisal of what they learn and what they think of their education, and their function. For a complete picture, he also gives a detailed account of the curricula, faculties, and teaching methods at the seminaries.

A special section of this volume deals with the Arab-Israel war of 1967. There are articles on Israel (by Misha Louvish), the Jews in the Arab countries (by Abraham S. Karlikow), American Middle East policy and United Nations deliberations (by George E. Gruen), the role of Soviet Russia and its influence on the nations of the Soviet bloc (by Leon Shapiro and Jerry Goodman), and American opinion (by Lucy S. Dawidowicz).

We call our readers' attention to several noteworthy articles in the Review of the Year:

Edward T. Rogowsky's "Intergroup Relations and Tensions in the United States" deals mainly with antisemitism, the 1967 summer riots, and church-state issues. Milton Ellerin, in "Rightist Extremism," examines the response of the ultra-conservative groups and the lunatic fringe to the riots and the Arab-Israel war.

In the demographic data on the American Jewish community, Alvin Chenkin includes newly-released material, collected by the United States Census Bureau in 1957, as well as the findings of recent studies of the Jewish communities in Boston, Milwaukee, and Springfield, Mass., on such matters as age, foreign-born, education, and occupation.

The bibliographical essay in this volume, prepared by Dr. Menahem H. Schmelzer, librarian of the Jewish Theological Seminary, deals with "Jewish

In the next volume of the Year Book we plan to introduce an annual record of the major statements and resolutions of American Jewish agencies, with brief comments putting them in the context of issues facing the community as a whole. We hope that this feature will be useful for future historians.

We regret the passing of Dr. Joseph Kissman, an old friend, who had been a contributing author of the Year Book for the last decade.

We wish to thank our colleagues for their cooperation: Mrs. Stella Ettlinger, for technical assistance and preparation of the directories, necrology, and index, and Harry J. Alderman, director of the Blaustein Library, his staff, and Mrs. Lotte Zajac for their aid in providing reference material. Rabbi Naftoli Richter prepared the calendars. Mrs. Monica Strauss read proof.

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