

THE
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT



1942

OBJECTS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

—*Extract from the Charter*

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers

Chairman, LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN

President, MAURICE WERTHEIM

Honorary Vice-Presidents { IRVING LEHMAN
ABRAM I. ELKUS

Vice-Presidents { LESSING J. ROSENWALD
CARL J. AUSTRIAN

Chairman, Administrative Committee, VICTOR S. RIESENFELD

Treasurer, SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF

General Secretary, MORRIS D. WALDMAN

Executive Committee

- | | |
|---|---|
| CARL J. AUSTRIAN (1945)*
New York, N. Y. | LOUIS B. MAYER (1943)
Culver City, Cal. |
| GEORGE BACKER (1943)
New York, N. Y. | GEORGE Z. MEDALIE (1944)
New York, N. Y. |
| JAMES H. BECKER (1943)
Chicago, Ill. | LOUIS J. MOSS (1943)
Brooklyn, N. Y. |
| JOHN L. BERNSTEIN (1943)
New York, N. Y. | MRS. DAVID DE SOLA POOL (1943)
New York, N. Y. |
| DAVID M. BRESSLER (1943)
New York, N. Y. | JOSEPH M. PROSKAUER (1945)
New York, N. Y. |
| FRED M. BUTZEL (1944)
Detroit, Mich. | VICTOR S. RIESENFELD (1945)
New York, N. Y. |
| LEO M. BUTZEL (1943)
Detroit, Mich. | JAMES N. ROSENBERG (1945)
New York, N. Y. |
| JAMES DAVIS (1944)
Chicago, Ill. | SAMUEJ. I. ROSENMAN (1945)
New York, N. Y. |
| ABRAM I. ELKUS (1943)
New York, N. Y. | WILLIAM ROSENWALD (1943)
Greenwich, Conn. |
| LEON FALK, Jr. (1943)
Pittsburgh, Pa. | WALTER N. ROTHSCHILD (1944)
Brooklyn, N. Y. |
| LOUIS FINKELSTEIN (1945)
New York, N. Y. | MURRAY SEASONGOOD (1944)
Cincinnati, O. |
| PHILLIP FORMAN (1945)
Trenton, N. J. | JESSE H. STEINHART (1945)
San Francisco, Cal. |
| ELI FRANK (1943)
Baltimore, Md. | EDGAR B. STERN (1945)
New Orleans, La. |
| MRS M. L. GOLDMAN (1943)
San Francisco, Cal. | HORACE STERN (1943)
Philadelphia, Pa. |
| HAROLD K. GUINZBURG (1944)
New York, N. Y. | ROGER W. STRAUS (1945)
New York, N. Y. |
| HENRY ITTLESÓN (1943)
New York, N. Y. | LEWIS L. STRAUSS (1945)
New York, N. Y. |
| MILTON W. KING (1943)
Washington, D. C. | DAVID H. SULZBERGER (1943)
New York, N. Y. |
| LOUIS KIRSTEIN (1944)
Boston, Mass. | WILLIAM B. THALHIMER (1943)
Richmond, Va. |
| SIDNEY LANSBURGH (1945)
Baltimore, Md. | FREDERICK M. WARBURG (1944)
New York, N. Y. |
| ALBERT D. LASKER (1943)
Chicago, Ill. | SIDNEY J. WEINBERG (1943)
New York, N. Y. |
| EDWARD LAZANSKY (1945)
Brooklyn, N. Y. | WILLIAM WEISS (1944)
New York, N. Y. |
| FRED LAZARUS, Jr. (1944)
Columbus, O. | MAURICE WERTHEIM (1943)
New York, N. Y. |
| IRVING LEHMAN (1943)
New York, N. Y. | JOSEPH WILLEN (1943)
New York, N. Y. |
| SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF (1944)
New York, N. Y. | HENRY WINEMAN (1943)
Detroit, Mich. |
| JAMES MARSHALL (1945)
New York, N. Y. | MORRIS WOLF (1945)
Philadelphia, Pa. |

Associate Secretary, SIDNEY WALLACH;

Assistant Secretary, HARRY SCHNEIDERMAN.

386 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

* The year given after each name is the date on which member's term expires.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

January 25, 1942

The Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Jewish Committee was held at the Hotel Astor, New York City, on January 25, 1942. Louis E. Kirstein, Chairman of the General Committee, called the meeting to order.

The following Corporate Members were present:

*Community Representatives***ARKANSAS**

Little Rock: C. C. Rubenstein

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles: Mendel B. Silberberg

CONNECTICUT

Hartford: Isidore Wise

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington: Milton W. King

ILLINOIS

Chicago: James H. Becker

MARYLAND

Baltimore: Jacob Blaustein

NEW JERSEY

Bayonne: William Rubin

Jersey City: Harry Goldowsky

Newark: Julius H. Cohn

Paterson: George Abrash

Trenton: Phillip Forman

NEW YORK

New York City: Carl J. Austrian; David A. Brown; William Fischman; Norman S. Goetz; Arthur J. Goldsmith; Leo Gottlieb; Harold K. Guinzburg; Henry S. Hendricks; Maurice B. Hexter; Joseph C. Hyman; Stanley M. Isaacs; Albert D. Lasker; Edward Lazansky; Oscar A. Lewis; William Lieber-

mann; James Marshall; Alexander Marx; Maximilian Moss; Edward A. Norman; Joseph M. Proskauer; Harold Riegelman; Victor S. Riesenfeld; A. J. Rongy; James N. Rosenberg; Samuel I. Rosenman; Walter N. Rothschild; Bernard Semel; Fred M. Stein; Hugh Grant Straus; Alan M. Stroock; Nathan Sweedler; Morris D. Waldman

Troy: Joseph Goodman
Utica: S. Joshua Kohn
White Plains: P. Irving Grinberg

OHIO

Columbus: Fred Lazarus, Jr.
Youngstown: Herman C. Ritter

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia: Justin P. Allman; Bernard Louis Levinthal

VIRGINIA

Richmond: Edward N. Calisch

Members-at-Large

George Backer, New York City; John L. Bernstein, New York City; Herbert J. Hanoach, Newark, N. J.; Louis E. Kirstein, Boston, Mass.; Samuel D. Leidesdorf, New York City; Louis E. Levinthal, Philadelphia, Pa.; George Z. Medalie, New York City; William Rosenwald, Greenwich, Conn.; David H. Sulzberger, New York City; William B. Thalhimier, Richmond, Va.; Max M. Warburg, New York City; Maurice Wertheim, New York City; Joseph Willen, New York City.

Delegates from Affiliated Organizations

FREE SONS OF ISRAEL: Max Ogust

HADASSAH: Mrs. Benjamin Gottesman; Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin; Mrs. David de Sola Pool

HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY: S. Dingol; Abraham Herman; Jacob Massel; Samuel A. Telsey

INDEPENDENT ORDER B'RITH ABRAHAM: Herman Hoffman; Max L. Hollander

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN: Mrs. H. B. Levine

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD: Joseph Rosenzweig

UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA: Benjamin Koenigsberg; William Weiss

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA: Louis J. Moss

WOMEN'S BRANCH OF THE UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA: Mrs. Joseph Mayer Asher; Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein

WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA: Mrs. David Kass; Miss Sarah Kussy; Mrs. Samuel Spiegel.

There were also present the following members of standing committees who are not Corporate Members:

Mrs. William de Young Kay, Jacob Landau, Newman Levy, Herbert H. Maass, Walter Mendelsohn, Maurice Mermey, George J. Mintzer, David Sher, Mrs. DeWitt Stetten, Morton S. Webster; also Mr. Paul Baerwald, all of New York City.

MORNING SESSION

Presentation of Annual Report

The Chairman turned the meeting over to Mr. Maurice Wertheim, the President.

The President called upon Mr. Morris D. Waldman, General Secretary, to present the Annual Report of the Executive Committee. (For text of Report, see p. 465).

Address of the President

The President announced that in accordance with past practice, he had prepared an address, which he proceeded to deliver. In the course of this, the President referred to the death during the past year of Mr. Sol M. Stroock, President of the Committee, and Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, member of the Executive Committee, and requested the meeting to rise for a moment of silent tribute to their memory. (For text of address, see p. 474).

Report of Chairman of Standing Committee on Overseas Affairs

Mr. George Z. Medalie, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Overseas Affairs, presented a report on behalf of that committee. This report is appended hereto. (For text, see p. 480).

Corporate Membership

It was reported that the Committee had suffered the loss of the following Corporate Members since the last Annual Meeting:

J. Irving Kaufmann, Richmond, Va., September 29, 1941

Solomon Lowenstein, New York City, January 20, 1942

Sol M. Stroock, New York City, September 11, 1941

Minutes expressing the Committee's grief and sense of loss were adopted by the Executive Committee.

It was announced that, in accordance with the provision of the by-laws, the following Nominating Committee, empowered to name candidates to succeed those community representatives whose terms expire today, and fill existing vacancies, had been appointed: David M. Bressler, Chairman, Edward M. Baker, Jacob Billikopf, Harry Block, Eli A. Cohen, Harry M. Ehrlich, Harold K. Guinzburg, Sidney Lansburgh, Benjamin H. Levy, Mendon Morrill, Samuel Salzman, Michael B. Stavitsky, Bertram A. Stroock, Frank L. Sulzberger.

Following is a list of the nominees of the Nominating Committee:

NEW YORK CITY

Carl J. Austrian

David A. Brown

Benjamin J. Buttenwieser

Louis Finkelstein

Leo Gottlieb

Maurice B. Hexter

Stanley M. Isaacs

Joseph J. Klein

Abraham Krasne

Samuel M. Levy

William Liebermann

James Marshall

A. I. Nova

Harold Riegelman

Victor S. Riesenfeld

Samuel Schulman

Bernard Semel

Alan M. Stroock

Nathan Sweedler

Morris D. Waldman

Frank L. Weil

CHICAGO

James H. Becker

James Davis

A. Richard Frank

Sol Kline

George E. Kuh

Hamilton M. Loeb

Though opportunity was afforded to the Sustaining Members to make independent nominations, no such nominations were offered. The above mentioned persons were thereupon declared elected.

In the following communities, in which the Committee receives its support from local federations and welfare funds, the nominations were made by the Boards of those organizations:

STATE	COMMUNITY AND NOMINEES	NOMINATING AGENCY
ALABAMA	Birmingham Leo K. Steiner, Sr.	United Jewish Fund
CALIFORNIA	Los Angeles Harry A. Hollzer San Francisco Jesse H. Steinhart	Los Angeles Jewish Community Council Jewish National Welfare Fund
CONNECTICUT	Hartford William P. Haas New Haven Harry Shulman Edgar E. Siskin	Jewish Welfare Fund Jewish Community Council
DELAWARE	Wilmington Aaron Finger	Jewish Federation
GEORGIA	Savannah Edmund H. Abrahams	United Jewish Appeal
INDIANA	Evansville A. A. Brentano Fort Wayne Nathan L. Salon Gary Garry J. August	Jewish Community Council Jewish Federation Jewish Welfare Federation
KENTUCKY	Louisville Fred Levy	Conference of Jewish Organizations
LOUISIANA	New Orleans Edgar B. Stern Shreveport A. B. Freyer	New Orleans Jewish Welfare Fund Jewish Federation
MASSACHUSETTS	Brockton Aaron Tarlow Fall River Edward Adaskin Lowell Maurice Barlofsky	United Jewish Appeal United Jewish Appeal United Jewish Appeal
MICHIGAN	Detroit Isadore Levin Abraham Srere	Jewish Welfare Federation
MINNESOTA	St. Paul Milton P. Firestone	United Jewish Fund
MISSOURI	Kansas City George Oppenheimer	Jewish Welfare Federation

STATE	COMMUNITY AND NOMINEES	NOMINATING AGENCY
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Manchester Louis Miller	Jewish Community Center
NEW JERSEY	Elizabeth Samuel Koestler Jersey City Harry Goldowsky Newark Julius H. Cohn Paterson George Abrash Trenton Phillip Forman	Jewish Council United Jewish Appeal United Jewish Appeal Jewish Community Council Jewish Federation
NEW YORK	Binghamton Charles R. Rosenthal Buffalo Samuel J. Harris Eugene Warner Gloversville Julius Higier Rochester Mortimer J. Adler Schenectady Lewis Lurie	United Jewish Appeal United Jewish Fund Jewish Community Center United Jewish Welfare Fund United Jewish Appeal
NORTH DAKOTA	Fargo William Stern	Fargo Welfare Fund
OHIO	Akron Richard Polsky Cleveland Max Freedman Toledo Harry Levison	Jewish Social Service Federation Jewish Welfare Federation Jewish Community Council
PENNSYLVANIA	Allentown Morris Senderowitz Altoona Isaiah Scheeline Chester Maurice Swimmer Philadelphia Justin P. Allman Pittsburgh Edgar J. Kaufmann Pottsville Abe Cramer Wilkes-Barre Reuben H. Levy	United Jewish Campaign Federation Jewish Philanthropies Jewish Community Council Federation of Jewish Charities United Jewish Fund United Jewish Charities Appeal Wyoming Valley Jewish Community
TEXAS	Houston Max H. Nathan	Jewish Community Council
VIRGINIA	Richmond Sam E. Binswanger	Richmond Jewish Community Council

STATE	COMMUNITY AND NOMINEES	NOMINATING AGENCY
WASHINGTON	Seattle Max Block Leo T. Kreielsheimer	Federated Jewish Fund
WEST VIRGINIA	Huntington Dez C. Schonthal	Federated Jewish Charities

The following national Jewish organizations affiliated with the Committee have named the delegates listed to represent them during the year 1942:

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach

BRITH SHOLOM, Louis I. Gilgor, Alex F. Stanton

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL JEWISH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, Mrs. Benjamin Spitzer

FREE SONS OF ISRAEL, Max Ogust

HADASSAH, Miss Juliet N. Benjamin, Miss Sylvia Brody, Mrs. Alexander Lamport, Mrs. Nathan D. Perlman, Mrs. David de Sola Pool, Mrs. Robert Szold

HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY, Solomon Dingol, Harry Fischel, Abraham Herman, Jacob Massel, Albert Rosenblatt, Samuel A. Telsey

INDEPENDENT ORDER BRITH ABRAHAM, Herman Hoffman, Max L. Hollander, Max Silverstein

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JEWISH SOCIAL WELFARE, Samuel A. Goldsmith

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, Mrs. Maurice L. Goldman, Mrs. Karl J. Kaufmann

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD, Joseph Rosenzweig

ORDER OF UNITED HEBREW BROTHERS, Max E. Greenberg

PROGRESSIVE ORDER OF THE WEST, Carl M. Dubinsky

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA, Leon S. Lang

UNION OF ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA, Benjamin Koenigsberg, William Weiss

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA, Louis J. Moss

WOMEN'S BRANCH OF THE UNION OF ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA, Mrs. Joseph Mayer Asher, Mrs. Isidore Freedman, Mrs. Herbert Goldstein

WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA, Mrs. David Kass, Miss Sarah Kussy, Mrs. Samuel Spiegel

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEAGUE OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA, Samuel Melnick

The following Members-at-Large were nominated by the Executive Committee to serve for the year 1942:

George Backer, New York
Louis Bamberger, Newark
John L. Bernstein, New York
Leo M. Brown, Mobile
Fred M. Butzel, Detroit
Leo M. Butzel, Detroit
Solomon Elsner, Hartford
Jacob Epstein, Baltimore
Leon Falk, Jr., Pittsburgh
Eli Frank, Baltimore
Edward S. Greenbaum, New York
Hiram J. Halle, New York
Herbert J. Hannotch, Newark
Walter S. Hilborn, Los Angeles
William L. Holzman, Omaha
J. J. Kaplan, Boston
Louis E. Kirstein, Boston
Samuel D. Leidesdorf, New York
Monte M. Lemann, New Orleans
Louis E. Levinthal, Philadelphia
Chas. J. Liebman, New York
Julian W. Mack, New York
Louis B. Mayer, Culver City, Cal.
George Z. Medalie, New York
Henry Morgenthau, Sr., New York
Reuben Oppenheimer, Baltimore
Milton J. Rosenau, Chapel Hill, No. Car.
Lessing J. Rosenwald, Philadelphia
William Rosenwald, Greenwich, Conn.
Morris Rothenberg, New York
Henry Sachs, Colorado Springs
David H. Sulzberger, New York
William B. Thalhimer, Richmond, Va.
F. Frank Vorenberg, Boston
Frederick M. Warburg, New York

Max M. Warburg, New York
 Sidney J. Weinberg, New York
 Maurice Wertheim, New York
 Joseph Willen, New York
 Henry Wineman, Detroit

Upon motion, the Secretary was requested to cast one ballot for the nominees to succeed Community representatives whose terms expire, as presented by the Nominating Committee, and also for the nominees for Members-at-Large presented by the Executive Committee. He so did, and announced the election of the several nominees.

At the request of the President, Mr. Victor S. Riesenfeld took the chair.

Executive Committee and Officers

Mr. Joseph M. Proskauer submitted a report of the Nominating Committee to nominate successors to the officers and to those members of the Executive Committee whose terms expire at this meeting. Mr. Proskauer stated that the Executive Committee had appointed him and Mr. George Z. Medalie as a committee of two to co-opt members to serve with them as the nominating committee.

The other members of the committee were: Messrs. Phillip Forman, Fred Lazarus, Jr., Samuel D. Leidesdorf, Samuel I. Rosenman, Lewis L. Strauss, William B. Thalhimer, and Henry Wineman.

The following were nominated by this committee to fill the respective vacancies:

For President, Maurice Wertheim

For Chairman, Louis E. Kirstein

For Honorary Vice-Presidents, Hon. Irving Lehman and Hon. Abram I. Elkus

For Vice-Presidents, Lessing J. Rosenwald and Carl J. Austrian

For Treasurer, Samuel D. Leidesdorf

For members of the Executive Committee: Carl J. Austrian, Leo M. Butzel, Leon Falk, Jr., Phillip Forman, Sidney Lansburgh, Edward Lazansky, James Marshall, Joseph M. Proskauer, James N. Rosenberg, Samuel I. Rosenman, William Rosenwald, Murray Seasongood, Jesse H. Steinhart, Edgar B. Stern, Roger W. Straus, Lewis L. Strauss, David H. Sulzberger, Sidney J. Weinberg, Joseph Willen, Henry Wineman, and Morris Wolf.

After discussion, upon motion regularly made and seconded, the report of the Nominating Committee was unanimously adopted and the Secretary was requested to cast one ballot for the nominees of the Nominating Committee, which he did, and announced the election of the several nominees.

A recess was declared for luncheon.

LUNCHEON SESSION

Adoption of Revised By-Laws

Upon motion, duly made and seconded, the amendments to the by-laws which had been proposed by the Executive Committee and of which the members had received due notice, were unanimously adopted.

Upon motion, duly made and seconded, the Executive Committee was authorized to secure from the Legislature of the State of New York the adoption of the amendments to the charter which had been proposed by the Executive Committee.

The President submitted the following resolution, which had been approved by the Executive Committee:

WHEREAS amendments to the by-laws and proposed amendment of the Charter which have been approved this day, provide for the creation of new offices and an increase in the membership of the Executive Committee and for an increase in the Corporate Membership, be it

RESOLVED that the Nominating Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee to report at this meeting, and enlarged if need be by its chairman and the President of the Committee, be continued in office until after the proposed amendments to the charter of the Committee are adopted by the Legislature of the State of New York, and that it shall thereupon hold a meeting, or meetings, and submit to the Executive Committee recommendations for the filling of the new offices and the new places on the Executive Committee, and that the Executive Committee shall be vested with power to elect persons so recommended, provided, however, that such persons shall serve only until the next annual Meeting; be it further

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee appoint a special Nominating Committee, which shall meet and prepare a list of persons recommended by them to fill vacancies created by the increase in the Corporate Membership resulting from the amendments to the by-laws adopted today, and that the Executive Committee be vested with power to elect persons so recommended to fill these vacancies until the next annual meeting.

Upon motion made and seconded, this resolution was unanimously adopted.

Reports of Standing Committees

At the request of the President, the following chairmen presented reports on behalf of their respective standing committees: Harold K. Guinzburg, Committee on Public Relations; Carl J. Austrian, Legal and Information Committee; Alan M. Stroock, Community Service Committee; and Morton S. Webster, Committee on Library of Jewish Information. (Mr. Webster was co-chairman of this committee with the late Solomon Lowenstein.)

Upon motion, adjourned.

MORRIS D. WALDMAN
General Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

Since your last Annual Meeting, and all too closely after the death of Dr. Cyrus Adler, we have suffered another great loss, that of Mr. Sol M. Stroock, who was elected to succeed him as President of the Committee at your last Annual Meeting. Mr. Stroock's health had been poor for some time, and you will recall that he accepted the office of President on condition that a successor would be chosen at an early date. He passed away suddenly, on September 11, 1941. Your officers were authorized by the members of the Executive Committee, with whom we communicated by telegram, to adopt an appropriate resolution, and the following expression of our grief was drawn up and published.

"The Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee, at a special meeting held today, records its profound grief at the sudden passing of its beloved President Sol M. Stroock.

"Mr. Stroock was a member of the American Jewish Committee for many years. In 1930 he was elected to the Executive Committee, and in 1934, he became its Chairman. Following the death of Dr. Cyrus Adler, in the spring of 1940, Mr. Stroock was elected to succeed him as President at the Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Committee, in January 1941.

"During the many years of his association with the Committee, Mr. Stroock actively participated in its work. As Chairman of the Executive Committee, especially during the last few years of Dr. Adler's life, Mr. Stroock devoted a great part of his time, his energies, and his many talents to the direction of the activities of the organization. His unstinted conscientious services were especially needed because the unhappy situation of Jews in European countries made necessary the augmentation of the work of the American Jewish Committee. It was during this period that the Committee was compelled to expand its organization and to intensify its activities, and, while deeply deploring the tragic events which made these steps necessary, Mr. Stroock gave skilled guidance and sagacious counsel.

"Mr. Stroock never sought personal recognition or commendation. He was wholeheartedly and unreservedly interested in the cause for which the Committee is laboring, and gave a noble

example to his colleagues of complete selflessness and boundless devotion.

“His colleagues of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee deeply mourn the passing of their leader and associate. We will sadly miss his genial friendship and his inspiring devotion. On behalf of the general membership of the Committee, we extend to his beloved wife and children the expression of our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement.”

The Committee suffered another great loss, in the sudden death, on last Tuesday, January 20, of Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, who had been a member of the General Committee for ten years and of the Executive Committee for the past five. At the meeting of your Executive Committee held yesterday evening, the following resolution was adopted:

The Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee records with profound sorrow their sense of loss to the American Jewish Committee and to the community at large in the passing of Solomon Lowenstein. He was a member of the General Committee for ten years and of the Executive Committee for five years before his death. During the years of his membership, he was most helpful in applying his wide experience in community affairs to our problems. He performed the important duties assigned to him with exemplary industry and effectiveness. We shall acutely miss his wise counsel, his cool and objective appraisal of men and situations, and his warm and gracious fellowship. To the members of his family we express our heartfelt sympathy and we trust that the realization that their grief is shared by innumerable co-workers and friends will help them to bear the anguish of their sudden bereavement.

The death of Mr. Stroock left the Committee without a lay leader. It was the opinion of the nominating committee, appointed in advance of your last annual meeting, which had been continued in office for the purpose of nominating a successor to Mr. Stroock, that the presidency should be filled at as early a date as appropriate. Accordingly, the nominating committee met and decided to nominate Mr. Maurice Wertheim for the presidency and recommended that a special meeting of the General Committee be called as soon as possible to receive its report.

A special meeting of the General Committee was held in New York City on Tuesday evening, November 18 last, at which the report of the nominating committee was unanimously adopted, and Mr. Maurice Wertheim was elected President of the Committee to fill the unexpired term.

It will be recalled that at your last annual meeting, it was recommended that a committee to propose amendments to the by-laws be appointed which was to submit its report either at a special meeting of the corporate membership if such a course would be deemed desirable, or else at the next annual meeting.

This recommendation was approved and Mr. Stroock appointed the following committee to propose amendments to the by-laws: Messrs. Lowenstein (chairman), Austrian, Riesenfeld, Sulzberger, and Waldman ex-officio. This committee held several meetings and submitted its report to your Executive Committee, which adopted it with a few minor changes and ordered it distributed to the corporate membership, as the by-laws provide, in advance of this meeting.

Attached to each copy of the proposed by-laws there was sent a statement explaining the reasons prompting the more important changes. In the main, besides increasing both the membership of the General Committee and that of the Executive Committee, in order to make possible the active participation in our work of a larger number of interested persons throughout the country, the status of our Administration Committee and its authority to act between meetings of the Executive Committee is formalized. In addition modifications in the structure of the Committee which had previously been authorized by the Executive Committee under its general powers are regularized. You will recall that, in 1936, a special committee was set up empowered to deal intensively and on a day-to-day basis with domestic problems. The new instrumentality was called, for the sake of convenience, the Survey Committee. It consisted in good part of men who had not previously been associated with our organization. The Survey Committee was given virtually autonomous status and was authorized by the Executive Committee to administer funds on the basis of an approved budget. It was believed that absorption of the Survey Committee work into the organization would afford these devoted men the opportunity to assume wider responsibilities, including tasks beyond the framework of domestic defense. The plan for re-organization was also prompted by the hope that it would resolve administrative difficulties which had inevitably arisen out of the anomalous relation of an extra-mural body to which a substantial part of the administrative professional force was directly responsible.

Accordingly, your Executive Committee authorized the break-

down of the work formerly conducted under the auspices of the Survey Committee and the setting up of standing committees on Public Relations, Legal and Investigative Work, Community Service, Library of Information, Overseas Activities and Finance. The first three of these committees will jointly perform the functions formerly within the purview of the Survey Committee. The Public Relations Committee deals with proposals for educational projects to be carried out either by the staff or by some other agency with which the Committee cooperates. This committee has borne the burden of counteracting the anti-Semitic propaganda emanating primarily from the Nazi agencies, but utilized in this country by native bigots as well. Its task has been to impress on the people of America the truth that anti-Semitism is a propaganda weapon of the Nazi government, designed among other things to create discord and division in our country. The work of this committee has been carried on in collaboration with non-sectarian, Christian and Jewish agencies of every description, and particularly with patriotic agencies. The responsibility of this committee has been a heavy one and your Executive Committee bespeaks for its report your careful attention.

To the Committee on Legal and Investigative Work are referred projects requiring the application of expert legal knowledge or careful investigation. The Committee on Community Service supervises the work of the community service unit of the staff which maintains contacts with professional and lay workers in the field of public relations in local communities throughout the country, interchanging with them information, advice, and materials.

The Overseas Committee, as its name implies, deals with the condition of the Jews in various countries. Because of the war its interests are at present limited in large measure to cooperation with the Jewish communities in our sister-republics in the Western Hemisphere and to research on problems which are likely to confront Jewish communities in European lands after the termination of the present war. This research work, you will recall, is conducted by a special department of the Committee, known as the Research Institute for Peace and Post-War Problems, under the supervision of an advisory committee headed by Prof. Morris R. Cohen and Dr. Solomon Lowenstein, which is an adjunct to the Overseas Committee.

While our overseas work has naturally been limited by the

circumstances of the war, we have had a number of opportunities in the past year to be of help to the Jewish communities of the Old World and in the countries below the Rio Grande. The office of the Committee has consulted with the Department of State on a number of matters affecting the Jews of South and Central America, particularly the threatened infringement of the rights of Jews in the Republic of Panama and the difficulties raised by consulates of several Latin American countries in granting visas to American citizens of the Jewish faith. In these efforts we have had the cordial help of our State Department. We were in communication with the State Department also on the extension of Vichy anti-Jewish laws to Morocco in contravention of the interest of the United States Government as expressed at the Algeciras Conference in 1906, in the humane treatment of the Jews of that country.

The presence in this country of official representatives of Free Governments of the countries overrun by the Axis Powers has enabled us to meet with many of them to discuss the problems of the Jewish population of these countries and to lay the groundwork for full recognition of the equality of status of their Jewish citizens after the war. The conversations have been eminently satisfactory and encourage us in the hope that the mistakes that followed the first World War will not be repeated.

The Committee on Jewish Library of Information supervises the work of this department which collects books, pamphlets, periodicals, reports, and other information media, prepares reports and memoranda based on these materials for the use of other departments and in answer to inquiries from outside individuals and organizations, and compiles and edits the publications of the Committee, especially the *AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK* and the *Contemporary Jewish Record*.

At this meeting you will receive from all of these committees brief reports of the work under their supervision during the past year.

In pursuing all our activities, your Committee has been eager to avoid duplicating the work of other organizations and has welcomed every opportunity to coordinate our efforts with those of other bodies working in the same field. It was with this principle in mind that, in 1933, the American Jewish Committee promptly responded affirmatively to the suggestion of the B'nai B'rith that a Joint Consultative Council be formed to consist of representatives of the B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Congress and the

American Jewish Committee. After several years of useful consultation and collaboration, this council unfortunately was informally dissolved, because of a regrettable misunderstanding. When in 1938, leaders of the Jewish community of Pittsburgh took the initiative in suggesting the establishment of a new policy-making and co-ordinating agency, this time to include the Jewish Labor Committee, in addition to the American Jewish Congress and the B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee again readily agreed to the proposal and joined in forming what became known as the General Jewish Council.

The Committee made every effort in the direction of making the Council what it had set out to be, namely, an agency for the effective interchange of information and views, for the unification of such activities as could be performed jointly, and the coordination of other activities with a view to the elimination and avoidance of useless duplication. The progress was not satisfactory to all, least of all to the constituent agencies themselves, but progress there has been. From the outset it was clear that effective coordination was an involved, complicated task requiring good will, patience and moral support from all of the constituent agencies. In a number of proposals and considerations there were obstacles to effective joint action, arising from genuine differences which, despite the sincerest good will on all sides could not readily be resolved and which in the best interests of our democratic tradition should not have been submerged. At the same time, it was clear that outside the area of such difficulties there were substantial opportunities for collaboration and joint effort in specific programs and problems. The chief obstacle to the full development of the General Jewish Council arose out of a difference of opinion as to the purpose of the Council.

At a meeting of the Council, held on April 6 last, the delegates of the American Jewish Congress submitted a memorandum in which they cited the considerations which had led to the decision of the American Jewish Congress to withdraw from the Council. Following the withdrawal of the Congress, the delegates of the remaining organizations decided to continue the Council and to go on making every effort to achieve the purposes for which the Council had been formed. This decision of the delegates was ratified by the organizations represented by them. In a public statement, these organizations expressed regret at the withdrawal of the Congress, announced their intention to preserve the Council,

and expressed the hope that the American Jewish Congress would soon resume its place in the General Jewish Council.

Since then, the Council and its various sub-committees have been vigilant and active. Mr. Isaiah Minkoff, formerly Executive Secretary of the Jewish Labor Committee, was appointed Executive Director of the Council, and is diligently performing the functions of his position.

In its memorandum of reasons for withdrawing from the General Jewish Council, the American Jewish Congress referred to the action taken by the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League in reaching an agreement for closer coordination of effort and for joint fund-raising. It was charged that this action was in contravention of the purposes of the General Jewish Council. As a matter of fact, however, joint fund-raising and allocation of funds were not contemplated at the time of the Council's organization. Joint fund-raising by the four constituent organizations had, however, been discussed by the Council on several occasions, but had been found not practicable. Nevertheless, for some time the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League had recognized that their programs and methods of work were closely related and that their constituencies were very similar in their approach to the problems engaging the attention of the two organizations. It was natural, therefore, that these two bodies should eventually unite in the raising of funds. The decision to do this was reached after protracted discussions and, in March last, the following announcement, over the signatures of Henry Monsky, President of the B'nai B'rith, and Sol M. Stroock, President of the American Jewish Committee, was sent to the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and to their constituent local units throughout the country:

The American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith are pleased to announce that in the interest of reducing the number of competitive appeals for funds for Jewish defense, they have agreed to project immediately a joint fund-raising campaign for their defense programs. The plan also contemplates increased cooperation between the two organizations in their operations. In taking this step, the two organizations hope to bring about the maximum attainable efficiency and economy in their defense activities.

This plan in no way affects the administration of either organization nor does it affect the integrity of their respective defense programs. Furthermore, both the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith will continue to take full part in the General Jewish Council for the settlement of questions of policy affecting all of the constituent members.

In the course of this meeting, you will receive a report of the results of this effort. Concomitant with it, machinery was set up for even closer coordination than had existed in the past in the work of our two organizations and significant progress is being made in this direction.

In the meantime, the American Jewish Committee will continue as before to cooperate with all agencies whose work is related to that of the Committee. In the various reports which you will receive from the chairmen of standing committees, details of such cooperation during the past year will be given.

In this connection, it is interesting to mention conferences which have been in progress for some time between Zionist leaders and individual non-Zionists. The latter comprise official representatives of the Jewish Labor Committee and members of the American Jewish Committee in their individual capacity. These conferences were initiated jointly by Dr. Weizmann, the President of the World Zionist Organization, and the late Mr. Stroock. The purpose is to explore anew the possibilities of finding common ground in regard to the prevailing Jewish problems throughout the world, and a common policy on post-war problems. There has been unreserved frankness on both sides, and the meetings have been marked by a uniformly cordial spirit and a patent desire to bring about the conditions that will make maximum collaboration possible.

Departing from the custom of many years past, this report of your Executive Committee does not include an appraisal of the international and domestic situations against the background of which the work of the American Jewish Committee is conducted. It is believed that these situations are sufficiently well-known by all of you to make such appraisal at this time unnecessary. The active entrance of our country into the present world conflict will undoubtedly require a re-orientation of our program and possible changes in methods and procedures. At a recent meeting, your Executive Committee authorized a special committee to study the changes in the general situation resulting from the entrance of the United States into the war, and recommend such re-orientation of the Committee's program as, in their opinion, may be required. As has been repeatedly emphasized, the work of the American Jewish Committee is but one facet of a common human duty, because the rights of Jews which we are pledged to defend, are, like those of other human beings, dependent upon the survival of

democracy, and efforts to safeguard those rights cannot succeed unless they are integrated with efforts to preserve the democratic way of life. Our country has entered the war not only to resist physical attack but also to defeat decisively and uncompromisingly the sinister forces which are bent upon the destruction of democratic ideals. Therefore, the work of all agencies which have been laboring to preserve these ideals in the United States is more necessary than ever before.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of the tie between anti-Semitism and the Nazi propaganda machine, the forces fomenting division and undermining national morale, which employ anti-Semitism as a means to attain these ends, have not abandoned their seditious activities. On the whole, there has been an impressive rallying for national unity, but the more violent subversive forces which have played the Nazi and Axis game in the past, have not changed overnight and are still carrying on their pernicious activities, with greater subtlety and circumspection, and therefore with greater danger to the security of American Jews than before. Against this threat we must continue our efforts. We must, if anything, enlarge our resources and intensify our endeavors to make crystal clear the character of anti-Semitism as a subversion of American principles and a sapping of the strength and influence of our country. Division among the people, dangerous at all times, is intolerable while the country is gathering all its energies for an unprecedented effort to preserve the freedoms of civilization for ourselves and other liberty-loving peoples. All Americans must give their full moral and material support, not only to the war effort, but also to the maintenance of the nation's solidarity, without which the success of the war effort cannot be assured. American Jews, in common with their fellow-citizens of other faiths will take a worthy and creditable part in the war effort, as they have always done in the past. Beyond that, the American Jewish Committee, must not only continue but also extend its efforts in the direction of promoting and defending democracy wherever and whenever attacked.

Respectfully submitted,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ADDRESS OF MAURICE WERTHEIM

The pleasure that I have in meeting you this morning is dimmed by the tragic losses which our Committee, and many of us as individuals, have suffered during the past months and even in the past few days. From our midst have been taken two great, kindly men, valiant soldiers in the causes of human righteousness, Jewish aspirations and American principles. They not only worked for these goals, but they lived them. In both of their lives was exemplified the selfless devotion to the welfare and to the problems of our co-religionists which is only found in men of the highest moral fibre. Let us hope that they did not belong to a generation that is passing, but that the men who follow them may look back upon their lives, take inspiration from them, and be even more determined to carry on the torch which they have so gallantly borne. I am sure that you will all wish to rise for a moment in respect to the revered memory of Sol M. Stroock and Solomon Lowenstein.

We are all aware that we are meeting today at a moment of historic crisis. We are met for the very specific object of considering the affairs of this Committee, and no purpose is served in discussing the general situation save in remembering always the great background of a world in flames, rising high and ever higher. Against this background our own problems are relatively small in comparison, but nevertheless are so vital to us that we must assess and discuss them with the utmost seriousness.

To take first things first, I go back to the provisions of our charter which states that the objectives of this Committee shall primarily be "to prevent the infraction of the civil and religious rights of Jews in any part of the world, to render all lawful assistance and to take 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."

At first sight, with the great holocaust swirling around us, this looks like an almost insuperable task to set before any group of men and women. One might say, bend your head in sorrow, let the elements surge around you and take what comes. Still, while there is life within us and that sturdy will to live, which has distinguished our ancestors down the centuries, when they bore aloft the banners of our religious faith through a hostile world, we are

determined to call no task hopeless and to devote ourselves manfully to the work which the march of events has imposed upon us. All is not lost even for the unfortunate body of our co-religionists who suffered the first impact of this great storm and many of whom are now wandering homelessly about Europe, starved, pilloried, and in abject misery. It was they who first bore the brunt of the wave of widespread tyranny and injustice which has spread like a scourge to other peoples until it now is felt in every corner of the globe. Against it an outraged world has arisen in arms. If this war means anything, it means that such forces must be destroyed and destroyed forever, and that to all men alike — whether Gentile or Jew — the right to live in peace will be given, according to the terms of that great charter of liberties which was written as a boat rocked on the waters of the Atlantic, by those illustrious defenders of the democratic way of life — Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

That great charter, and in a humble way our own charter, far from being conflicting, are congruous and therein lies our hope, if we but have the wit and the wisdom so to bear ourselves that their essential harmony shall at all times be evident to a world in torture. The responsibilities laid upon this committee are tremendous. Recall that out of the fifteen million Jews in the world, about five million are in America and the overwhelming majority of the other ten million so situated that they are without the means, the influence, or even the energy to determine their own fate. Today the American Jews almost alone must carry the grave responsibility. Upon our actions and upon our leadership will depend the fate of all the Jews in the foreseeable future. And among American Jews this American Jewish Committee stands as the body which may, if it will, be the moral power-house for the Jews in this country. I say this because there is no question but that we have the platform from which the proper basic direction can come, namely, that Jews in America are of American, and no other, nationality. In standing for this principle, we believe that we represent not merely the views of our Corporate Members, but the deepest and innermost aspirations of the overwhelming number of American Jews to integrate themselves further in the life and spirit of our beloved country.

But, ladies and gentlemen, there is one stark fact that in the concentration on our own problems we must at no moment forget. Our country is at war. That is the paramount fact which must

shape all our actions and against which must be measured the validity of any position we take. It imposes upon us the highest duty of taking only such action as will contribute to the well-being of our country; and appraising all Jewish efforts, including the need for maximum Jewish unity, by that high standard.

This question of Jewish unity has vexed and bedeviled us in this country for generations. It will probably never be settled completely. I myself have for a long time inclined to the view that variety of outlook was salutary and that vitality in communal life was sustained by honestly differing points of view, honestly held. I still feel that way, but the war and the tragedy that have befallen Jews throughout the world, impose upon us a mandate to make every effort for the maximum unity of action within the bounds of basic differences. I daresay that no one will maintain that we have at all times approached our differing points of view with calm intelligence and without prejudice. But we must do it now.

Have you pictured to yourselves that of which we might be capable if the energies of the Jews of this country and of its Jewish organizations were released by a cessation of merely partisan, internecine fight? Have we any conception of the amount of time, work and effort we spend in narrow sectarian battles — so trifling in meaning against the great background of a world war — which we could convert to the service both of our country and of our fellow-Jews at this time of crisis? If this veil of internecine strife were lifted, with what relief and happiness would we then go forth to execute the mighty tasks we are called upon to perform!

In my short incumbency as President, I have met two situations which throw light on this problem. They may be minor against the larger background, but they will serve as an illustration of a larger picture. Two of our major functions of the moment are our defense work — so well conducted in the past by that devoted group known as the Survey Committee ably headed by Mr. Edward S. Greenbaum and others, and assisted by our splendid staff led by Mr. Waldman and Mr. Wallach — and our post war studies and planning. From all quarters of the country our office hears daily demands for the unity of this work with that of other organizations. Fortunately, our record in this matter is clear: for we were the *first* organization which, two years ago, formally offered to relinquish our defense work, constituting in the past few years our major activity, and integrate it with that of all other defense organizations under the aegis of a unified body for defense, which

was to carry out that task without reference to differing ideologies. Unhappily, this could not be brought about. In its place, steps have been taken to integrate the policies of several of the defense organizations under the General Jewish Council. In addition, we have just had a successful joint fund-raising campaign with the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith, with the splendid assistance of our beloved treasurer, Mr. S. D. Leidesdorf, Mrs. Borg, Mr. Medalie, Mr. Willen, and many others of our organization; and our dear friends of the Anti-Defamation League, Mr. Philip Haberman and Mr. L. Louis Cohen, their associates, and their able assistant, Mr. Gutstadt. In these associations we have learned much from the Anti-Defamation League as well as from the Jewish Labor Committee under the fine leadership of Mr. Adolph Held, with whom we have always worked in the closest collaboration. We regret that the American Jewish Congress found it necessary to withdraw from the General Jewish Council and hope that circumstances may result in their return in the near future.

But in spite of all this, the communities are not satisfied. Various demands for complete integration, complete joint fund-raising for defense activities are daily dinned in our ears. Three or four Institutes of Peace Studies are anathema to the communities — as they well might be — and the public demand to settle our differences is assuming the proportion of a ground swell. Underneath can be heard some threat — as yet but murmured — that if the organizations do not respond, the communities will join together and take matters in their hands. I believe, however, that if the well-meaning men and women of the national organizations cannot achieve the desired goal, I take it that the communities, when they begin to organize themselves, will find the same obstacles.

The obstacles, of course, lie in the deep rift in American Jewish life that has been caused by the conflicting ideologies of Zionism and non or anti-Zionism (or as I prefer to call it, anti-Nationalism) and the extremism that has invaded areas of Jewish activity where, by every rational standard, it has no place. Frankly, the dispassionate observer might well find it a deplorable spectacle. The lengths it has gone to, the activities it has paralyzed, and the personal antagonisms it has developed, have brought us to a point where the real issues have been obscured, if not almost forgotten.

My revered predecessor and good friend, Sol Stroock, sensed the situation and in the great catholicity of his viewpoint, initiated an effort which may, among his many great achievements, turn out

to be his greatest. Approached by Dr. Weizmann on his visit to this country in the early part of last year, Mr. Stroock undertook to bring together a number of his associates to serve as individuals in conferences with Zionists and with members of the Jewish Labor group, to see whether common ground for united action could not be found. His untimely passing took from this effort a powerful force which it is impossible to replace. At the request of those associated with him, I accepted the chairmanship of our group, which is continuing its attempts to find a common ground. I know not what will come of these conferences, but I am happy to tell you that the spirit of good will which has thus far been manifest on both sides, augurs well. Four long meetings have been held, each attended by twenty to thirty people under the alternate chairmanship of Dr. Stephen S. Wise and myself, and from the beginning there has been a solemn determination on both sides to find a common program of action. It is with this realistic objective that we are concerned and it is my belief that there is not a man on either side of the table who is not resolved that we shall not be turned off our course by dialectics. And it is dialectics which I suspect have often been the cause of the difficulty. For example, it boots neither side to dogmatize upon the eventual character of Jewish survival. This must always remain a matter of personal belief and is not the issue. We are trying to understand our differences and then, as well-disposed persons, to find common ground on which we can act.

I think both sides know what would be the result of failure. We of the American Jewish Committee, though still acting as individuals, know that we cannot, nor would we even consider abandoning our fundamental point of view that we are Americans of the Jewish faith — of American nationality — and that we can never permit anything that threatens to affect this status. Failing to reach agreement, there will be only one alternative for us: our Committee would have to make its position crystal-clear, forthrightly, and forcibly, and, then as they say in England "go to the country." Firm as we must be in this resolve, I would regard it as calamitous if that had to happen, and I sincerely hope that realistic statemanship and wisdom on both sides will make such a course unnecessary.

Fortunately, there is reason for optimism. On our part, I sense within this Committee the most sincere interest in Palestine and everything that it connotes as a home for Jews who wish to live

there. Colonization and immigration have been fostered by many of us individually, and this Committee itself, under the Presidency of its great leader, Louis Marshall, officially endorsed the Balfour Declaration in 1918. On the part of the Zionists, many of them are today considering whether their past emphasis on nationalism is not, in this country at any rate, more of a liability than an asset in the attainment of their goal.

I could go much further to explain to you why I retain hope. On account of the great stakes involved and the high duty I feel is imposed upon us at this time, I refuse to give up hope until I feel that the point has been reached that we can go no further without relinquishing principle.

At last night's meeting of the Executive Committee, the distinguished chairman of your Committee, Mr. Louis Kirstein, was appointed as head of a committee to hear the report of the non-Zionist delegates when the conferences are finished, in order to decide what position it wants to recommend to you. We will then be face to face with one of the greatest decisions we have ever had to make. Let us pray that when it is placed before you, it may be of a nature that will presage harmony; that it will be true to the principles that we hold dear, and at the same time responsive to the appeal of millions of our suffering brethren and to the duties which our country lays upon us in this hour of great tragedy. At such an hour I can only feel with the poet that "a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for."

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

The Overseas Committee was recently organized with a mandate to concern itself and report on matters pertaining to the rights of Jews abroad. This is indeed a staggering, but not a forbidding, assignment. It means, practically, that the Committee must serve in an advisory capacity both on matters of immediate concern and problems that will arise in the future as they affect the Jews the world over, outside of the United States.

Before the present war, the policy of the American Jewish Committee, insofar as it concerned Jews outside of the United States, had to deal in the main with questions of political rights and their involvement for the happiness and well being of Jews in many countries, where, either by bold strokes or a process of attrition, their cultural and religious freedom was intruded upon, they were oppressed and their elementary right to earn a living and live among themselves and in their relations with their neighbors, on the basis of human dignity was in danger.

Theoretically, or at least in the form of blueprint, after the last war, there was secured for Jews in Europe certain supposed rights of equality in the solemnity of treaties, in which American Jewry participated. But then came shock after shock as greed, chauvinism and a spirit of hysterical destructiveness found in the Jew an object for the expression of primitive and abysmal urges. On such occasions, the American Jewish Committee took immediate cognizance of the situations and sought to express its views publicly or to our own State Department and, by such representations and inquiries as were appropriate, to the representatives of foreign governments and leading influences within the countries affected. Examples of our activity in this direction will readily be recalled. They dealt, among other things, with such situations as the restrictions of Jewish rights and discrimination against Jews, both politically and in the field of economic opportunity in Poland and in the startling and horrible outbursts in Rumania at the time of the accession of the Goga Government. The formation of the Overseas Committee in no way limits this activity. The existence of the Committee has had in view a wider range and continuous attention to the entire overseas problem of the Jews.

To summarize the position of the Committee is perhaps to overstate it; but broadly speaking, the intention that underlies its organization is that it shall concern itself with a broad program which will deal not only with the day to day situations, but which shall involve too, the formulation of a policy which will state the fundamental viewpoint of this Committee in its relations to the rights and happiness of Jews abroad, ultimately expressed in governmental and treaty guarantees and sanctions, at no time overlooking the needs for economic security, if that is possible, and for the opportunity to live without molestation from primitive and medieval ferocity.

With practically all of Europe enveloped in the greatest and most destructive war in the world's history, day to day discussion of the rights of Jews in European countries is either a futility or an impossibility. It is impossible at this time to predict just who and what those governments will ultimately be. The day for decision is probably too far distant for us to make an early adjustment to the ultimate realities which will need to be faced. However, if the Committee can devote itself to the constant assimilation and evaluation of information as it comes from research and study, as well as discussion and exchange of opinion, when the fog lifts it may be in a position to present something approximating an ordered, reasoned and practical approach in action to an attempted solution of one of humanity's greatest problems.

Though Europe is cut off from us in many ways, there is another range of overseas activity to which the Overseas Committee can serve the American Jewish Committee and on which from time to time it will, of course, make recommendations.

The so-called area of Latin America, not as a unit, but in different segments, presents a broad field for Jewish activity because of the existence of Jewish communities, some quite large, some very small. The attitude of each of the various Latin American countries in which these communities exist is of prime interest to the Jews of the world who are anxious that their brothers develop their own full life and live in peace and with reasonable security among their immediate neighbors. In most of these places, the Jewish community is comparatively new. Except for the mere vestiges of the old Spanish and Portuguese settlements, the Jewish populations from the Rio Grande to the Argentine and Chile consists overwhelmingly of immigrants who came within the past half century from all parts of Europe and the Mediterranean regions. They

include the Sephardic element, the east European groups and the more recent Austrian, German and Czech emigres. They are hardly integrated groups and must develop cooperation to protect themselves against external hostility, whether initiated by virulent Axis propaganda or the native-born variety of anti-Semitism from which we are not ourselves free.

These groups lack substantial funds as well as experience. Because of their position and new environment, they have as yet developed no such influence among their neighbors as is to be found in our own communities. It is important that for their security, their self-respect, and their social usefulness, there be developed among them a healthy Jewish life, integrated into the life of the countries in which they live, so that they will not be unwanted, and their rights respected. They are not free from the danger of destructive aggression.

Our own interest in them will not be unappreciated and perhaps ways can be found in which we can be helpful to them in the development of their religious, educational and philanthropic outlooks. Much can be done with moderate effort. Not only would this be helpful to those who are there now, but if it is known in the countries in which they are now settled that their useful development there is a valuable addition to the local economy and culture, a fair prospect exists that later immigration might not be regarded with hostility but might be looked forward to as a great boon in many countries where the new immigrant can help develop vast natural resources and create a large consumer market for the country's own products.

It is not impossible that there can be generated in these countries an enlightened sentiment in favor of large scale, though selected, immigration on the basis of self-interest without fear of danger to national interest and national pride. How to develop such a sentiment is a matter of charting the education of the leadership of the Latin American countries through the press, commercial organizations and departments of government. An effort in this direction is clearly indicated but at this time, in such a challenging situation, the Committee is too young at this moment to indulge in prophecy.

In order that the Overseas Committee, which was re-organized only last November, may have at its command a full measure of information and knowledge of considered opinion, it is necessary that it make use of all of the facilities for research available to the

American Jewish Committee. This is made the easier for us in view of the fact that there has been assigned to the Overseas Committee supervision of the work of the Research Institute on Peace and Post-War Problems. It is hoped that shortly this will be more fully developed by programs worked out with the Research Institute, through its chairman, Professor Morris Cohen, who has conferred with members of our Committee.

The Institute has completed studies on various subjects. Among them are surveys of countries of potential immigration for Jews. Not all of these have been very encouraging, but they have given us enough knowledge to help us avoid the sponsoring of futile projects. Most of you have received some of them, including the study on Madagascar, which we may correctly describe as Hitler's fetid and lethal Garden of Eden for Jews.

The Institute is concerning itself with a survey of the Jewish situation in Nazi occupied Europe in its various aspects and localities, dealing not only with the political prospects and present realities, but also with the Jewish economic situation abroad, particularly from the viewpoint of reconstruction. Studies under way deal with potential immigration to Brazil and to Cuba, and if practical, political, economic and financial aspects of future Jewish immigration throughout the world. It is not intended by this brief outline to suggest a limitation to these studies. It is not improbable the funds will be available for their completion and extension.

Some of you have probably received the first of a series of pamphlets entitled Jewish Emancipation, a selection of documents by Raphael Mahler. This is the beginning of an educational program at moderate costs. With scholarly care and skill, many more will be forthcoming dealing directly with matters of deep concern to all of us. The staff of the Institute has worked in cooperation with other similar bodies here and abroad and thereby has avoided unnecessary duplication.

Wherever the future of the Jew in Europe is discussed, one thing becomes evident. No longer can we approach the problem by patterning ourselves on the experiences that followed the last war. The world will deal with an entirely new situation. New political theories are being formulated and populations have not stood still. Many of them have been uprooted; practically all Jewish communities have been impoverished. Not only from the viewpoint of the momentarily successful conqueror, but even from

the view of the prospectively victorious democracies, and their allies there is a new questioning as to what shall be the new political map of Europe and the constitution of its component parts. Federated states are talked about with a sincerity and conviction that indicate that these projects will be realized in some measure if not completely. We cannot even say at this time whether there will be a peace conference, in the old accepted sense, patterned either on the Clemenceau — Lloyd George — Wilson, Versailles, or Metternich's Vienna. We shall be compelled to accept the mechanism, whatever it may be, which will undertake to chart Europe's and the world's future. While we shall probably have no say in determining this, there is no reason why we should not be heard. We hope that we shall not knock vainly at the doors of the responsible statesmen, however they sit in conference. For this we must be prepared with information and a policy that has vision and practicability.

In this, too, we cannot act alone. We must cooperate with others who are as deeply interested as ourselves. Differences in ideology cannot preclude mutual conference and cooperation. There are differences in outlook of responsible and well meaning peoples on questions of world interest not limited to Jews in the United States and in Great Britain, for example. This does not prevent a mutual exchange of opinion and an attempt to find a common denominator among those who hold varying views. It must be remembered that good fortune gives one outlook on life to the American and British Jew, and a much different outlook and orientation to the Jew of Poland and Rumania. The East European Jews' attitude to Palestine, apart from any question of mere sentiment but translated into vibrant personal desire and action, is necessarily different from that of his brother in an Anglo-Saxon country. Such differences do not preclude a spirit of helpfulness and cooperation. It is perhaps possible, notwithstanding either slogans or fundamental differences, to find some basis for mutual agreement on many subjects.

Some of the members of the Overseas Committee, with full adherence to the Non-Zionist viewpoint of the American Jewish Committee, and reminded of our Committee's early expression of approval of the Balfour declaration and on the mandate, have engaged in informal, unofficial conferences with members of the Zionist group. As it is the dictate of wisdom that even in disagreement there be better understanding, there is always the

possibility that there may be found some minimum basis for agreement. Such discussions, of course, it is well understood, cannot and do not commit the American Jewish Committee. Should there be such agreement, it will be possible only through well considered official action by the American Jewish Committee.

While we do not have the answer at the moment, we must consider whether a reiteration of the minority rights for those Jews in Europe who, in the past, have been accorded them, will bring them relief and security. This question has been raised by many, not only among Jews, but by Christians, too, and for groups that are not Jewish. If there are to be minority rights, they must be capable of enforcement. If they are not capable of enforcement, they are not worth the imposing parchments on which they are written. If such rights are not adequate in themselves, what else is required? There is much for us to consider and to learn there. In the interest of those whom we hope to aid, this problem must be studied anew, with a fresh mind, and with a view to practical and genuine realization of security in a life of freedom.

These and other questions we hope to study earnestly and to pass on to you our considered judgment. Aided by research and the exchange of opinion, the Committee is not unhopeful that it may be of some service.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE Z. MEDALIE,

Chairman

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

The major work of combating anti-Semitism in the United States is naturally divided into two parts:

1. The investigative work, about which you have already heard, and which is carried on for the purpose of ferreting out and reporting to the proper authorities the subversive activities of anti-Semitic individuals and groups; and

2. A broad campaign of education to acquaint the American public as a whole with the specific findings regarding anti-Semitic individuals and groups, to combat the various misconceptions with respect to Jews, and above all to expose anti-Semitism for what it is, a Nazi propaganda weapon to destroy American unity and thus weaken national defense. This national educational campaign is the work of our Public Relations Committee.

The past year has been a trying one for this committee — and yet it has also been a year in which a vast amount of effective work has been done. We have attempted to utilize all proper channels for the dissemination of our material — press, radio, books, speakers and the rest. We have collaborated in the preparation of articles for widespread syndication in newspapers. We have undertaken the preparation of booklets and pamphlets for distribution in groups of all sorts. Even comic strip artists have been enlisted in the work and have cooperated magnificently. In the field of radio, we have not only originated programs for network presentation but have also prepared transcriptions for local station broadcasts.

Much of this work of ours has been carried on in cooperation with non-sectarian organizations in all fields of American life, for it is our firm belief that the combating of anti-Semitism is not a strictly Jewish concern, but on the contrary is a matter of American defense against enemy agitators and disruptive un-American forces in general. Our attempt is to make these non-sectarian organizations more and more aware of the problem of anti-Semitism as a national problem demanding action on their part. Not only do individuals connected with our Committee take part in the councils of these organizations, but our professional staff has also increasingly cooperated with them in the handling and carrying through of specific projects.

In addition to this more immediate work of attacking active anti-Semitic propaganda, the Public Relations Committee has concerned itself with a number of long range projects designed to reduce that traditional type of anti-Jewish feeling known as "prejudice." We have realized that this is a difficult field. And yet we have felt that in certain areas it is possible, by touching nerve centers, as it were, to do much to eliminate long-standing misunderstanding and tension.

It is still perhaps a little too early to know exactly what effects the entrance of the United States into the war will have on anti-Semitism in this country. On the one hand, the marshalling of the national effort against the Axis powers may, at least momentarily, blunt the edge of the more violent type of anti-Semitic agitation. Moreover, it may be that Pearl Harbor will somewhat offset the misconception that the Jews were the "war mongers." For various other reasons, other misconceptions may also decline in importance, specifically the various refugee misconceptions.

On the other hand, we must be constantly aware of the new emotional tensions of war, which can so easily arouse dormant animosities into acute antagonisms. We may, for instance, expect that, whenever during the war there is a military reverse or a widespread accusation of mismanagement in high places, there will be a public demand for a scapegoat. Moreover, new anti-Semitic charges are likely to arise as the war proceeds. Finally, there is the great problem of anti-Semitism after the war. The transition from war to peace is always a painful procedure, and it is not unlikely that the unemployment and necessary readjustments of this period will prepare the ground for new anti-Semitic outbursts. We must remember that any post-war depression that might develop would come on top of ten years of world-wide anti-Semitic agitation, so that the result, so far as anti-Jewish feeling is concerned, would be likely to be far more serious than during any depression period in the past. We must not only be prepared for what may happen, but also leave no stone unturned now to insure that we enter such a period with the minimum of disease symptoms and the maximum of public good will.

So much for the factors having to do with what might be called the fertility of the soil for the growth of anti-Semitic feeling in the months ahead. Equally important is it for us to consider the nature of the seed which various subversive groups may be expected to be

planting during the coming year. Our own investigations, as well as the reports of various governmental agencies, would seem to indicate that our enemies are not going to let up in their anti-Semitic campaign. At most they are merely biding their time, waiting for the first opportunity, tomorrow, next week, or next month, to renew their active agitation. Nazi propaganda will continue to bombard the American people as before the war, and as it did in France before (and after) June 1940. It is expected that this barrage of propaganda will be promoted, not only by short wave to listening groups in this country who will then spread it by whispering campaigns, but also by press releases, speeches, etc., from Berlin and the conquered capitals of Europe.

In the situation as thus presented to us, there are a number of opportunities which open up at the present time, and which may in fact make a unit of effort on our part now ten times as effective as the same amount of effort a year or two from now. The present war situation furnishes us an unusual chance to discredit, once and for all, not only the whole gang of anti-Semitic leaders, but anti-Semitism itself as un-American and dangerous. In other words, the war makes it possible for us to argue our case, not merely in the language of tolerance, but rather in terms of the one outstanding public interest of the moment, national defense. For today anti-Semitism is not merely un-American, immoral and intolerant; it is actually a Nazi trick to weaken our country in the face of danger by confusing issues, by getting Americans to fight each other instead of the common enemy, and by hamstringing national action through setting group against group, religion against religion. Here we can conduct a campaign with vitality and timeliness.

In closing, reference must be made to the impact which the war has already had, and may increasingly have, on our Committee and staff. Some have already been called into service. Others are likely to be called. It is a situation which we must handle as best we can. But in any event it calls for an increasing amount of active participation by lay members of the American Jewish Committee who have not heretofore been actively associated with the work.

To those volunteer members of the Public Relations Committee who have in the past so unselfishly and intelligently given of themselves in carrying forward the work, a word of tribute must be added. To those of you who have never sat in at our meetings it

should be said that seldom is it possible to gather together a group of men and women who are as realistic in their approach, as objective in their analysis, as honest in their views, and as unselfish in their devotion to a cause. It has been inspiring to work with such a group. And the reason for their devotion is simply that each one of them feels that this cause is not a narrow, selfish matter of so-called "Jewish defense," but is rather a matter closely related to the defense of America and, beyond that, the defense of democracy and decency everywhere.

Respectfully submitted,

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

The Legal Committee has met weekly during the past year and has carried on its function of studying all manifestations of anti-Jewish agitation. This includes the study of the activities of groups and individuals, and an analysis of anti-Jewish literature and propaganda.

It has become axiomatic that wherever you find a pro-Fascist or pro-Nazi, you will find an anti-Semite. For this reason our studies have been directed toward those who were engaged in attempting to undermine American democratic institutions. The results have been placed at the disposal of various Federal and State officials and agencies.

At the outbreak of the war we found that anti-Jewish activity did not abate, although it became in many instances more cautious. Those who hated Jews before the Japanese attack on the United States did not learn to like them any more the day after.

It is our judgment that, as the war progresses, with its accompanying hardships and dislocations, attacks upon Jews may become more open and may increase in virulence. That this may happen is already apparent in the publications of such notorious anti-Semites as Coughlin and Pelley.

For these reasons, we are regrettably of the opinion that the work of our Committee is likely to become more important and necessary as the war progresses.

Respectfully submitted,

THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE UNIT

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

During 1941 the Community Service Unit continued intensive operations along the lines laid down at its inception in 1939 and continued throughout 1940. The broad objective of this department is, of course, to maintain contacts with the country at large with the dual purpose of disseminating the point of view and the materials of the Committee, and of reflecting for the benefit of the national office the reactions of the Jewish community outside New York.

In the furtherance of this basic aim, the Community Service Unit has from the beginning proceeded along broad and non-partisan lines. It was from the very outset the consensus of the Committee as a whole that a very high degree of unification of effort was feasible in the local communities. In reaching out through the Community Service Unit for local collaboration, we have accordingly not confined our approaches to those individuals who are the official local representatives of the American Jewish Committee. On the contrary, we have enlisted the aid of these individuals in our effort to stimulate local agencies in which *all* points of view in a community could be pooled. Local leadership in many cities, including most of the large centers of Jewish population, spontaneously realized the desirability of community-wide organization for the handling of Jewish public relations. The years 1938, 1939 and 1940 accordingly saw the establishment of a considerable number of broadly based local organizations specializing in this field of work. With these organizations the Community Service Unit has been consistently collaborating. Our influence has also been responsible in whole or in part for the creation of such agencies in a number of other cities.

The most notable development in this connection during the year just passed was the understanding reached by us in November with the Anti-Defamation League. Formerly critical of our policy of encouraging strong local organizations cutting across affiliational lines, our sister organization now concurs in our approval of them and is prepared to join with us in working with this type of local organization wherever it exists. The Anti-Defamation League will likewise associate itself with us in fostering the creation of such agencies in all cities having a Jewish population of 8,000 and over

which have not as yet organized their efforts along civic-protective lines.

In maintaining its contacts with the outside communities, the Community Service Unit relies on personal conferences as well as on correspondence. Our Community Consultant, Dr. Solomon A. Fineberg, has continued to be in demand both as a consultant on community problems,—in which capacity he meets with the local public relations committees,—and as a speaker at various Jewish gatherings. During 1941 he made initial visits to 43 communities, in many cases bringing to these cities word of the activities of the Committee for the first time in many years. He paid return visits to 36 other cities, many of them more than once. In this way, community leaders are kept informed of the thinking and the program of our organization, and are enabled to discuss their local problems at some length with our Consultant. The value of this directly conveyed information is reflected both in the work done locally and in allocations by local Welfare Funds to our support through the Joint Defense Appeal. Moreover, the central office is kept fully informed by means of Dr. Fineberg's detailed and vivid reports of the current picture in the communities visited by him.

Our experiences in 1941 have again confirmed the conclusion that the most rewarding collaboration is with communities in which the local public relations program enjoys professional direction. Whereas in certain exceptional cases a key layman, in a somewhat larger number of cases an energetic rabbi, is capable of notable achievements in this field of work, for the most part an executive director is all but indispensable to the execution of a continuing program such as we sponsor. In communities of small and medium size, this functionary is usually a Welfare Fund or Community Center executive who guides the local public relations committee along with his other work. In some fifteen of the largest cities, however, there is now a high degree of specialization, so that full time professionals are available to execute the public relations program. In 1941, as in the year preceding, the collaboration between our Committee and these professionals has been very close and extraordinarily fruitful. These men are in constant touch with our office, and have been extremely valuable in communicating our attitudes, implementing our policies, and executing our projects in their respective cities.

As reported at the annual meeting last year, this group, which is known as the Community Relations Conference, meets at intervals of about three months, first in one city and then another, for full-dress discussion of current problems. These meetings last for two or three days, with the conferees in session from nine to thirteen hours each day. The full attendance at these conferences, in spite of the long distances which several of the members have to cover, itself indicates how important they are recognized to be not only by the professionals themselves but by the local organizations which employ them. Mr. Hexter, the head of our Community Service Unit, serves the Community Relations Conference as its secretary. Mr. Trager, along with a representative of the Anti-Defamation League, likewise attends its meetings. In this way the local professionals are kept informed of the thinking of the national agencies, while they, in turn, impress upon the representatives of the national agencies the tenor of their own thinking. When it is considered that the members of the Community Relations Conference come from cities which, in the aggregate, account for a major fraction of the whole of American Jewry, it is obvious that these meetings constitute a uniquely effective means of coordinating national and local activity.

So great is their value that part-time professional workers in the field in some of the smaller cities have likewise sought an opportunity to meet with their peers and with representatives of the national agencies. It will be recalled that in 1939 and 1940 the Community Service Unit organized a series of seminars at the offices of the Committee. No such seminar was held during 1941. Instead, reflecting the closer relations between the Committee and other agencies, a seminar was held under the auspices of the General Jewish Council in October, with representatives of the Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Labor Committee as well as our representatives meeting with the local people. A more intensive conference was held at the offices of the General Jewish Council in December, with professional representatives from New England and New Jersey in attendance. The exchange of views and information was so welcome to the participants that another session of the same group was at once planned for later in the winter.

In the intervals between Dr. Fineberg's community visits, and between the meetings of the Community Relations Conference and

other groups, the Community Service Unit maintains steady contact with the communities through correspondence. In each community it has been our aim to establish working relations with an appropriate individual, either a paid worker or an active volunteer, but in any case a person who is in position to act on the suggestions and to communicate the views of our organization in his locality. In this way we have built up a key list of approximately 150 names who receive our circular letters and new materials. From these people in return we get reports of local developments, and through them have become increasingly the source to which communities look for information and guidance.

About 3,000 letters to individual correspondents went out from the department last year, covering a very extensive variety of subject matter. Perhaps the most frequent type of request is for information concerning organizations and publications, both Jewish and non-Jewish, which appeal to individuals or to Welfare Funds for financial support. The Committee performs a real service to the local communities in indicating the worthiness or unworthiness of such appeals. Inquiries concerning subversive organizations, individuals, and publications are also frequent. From time to time it becomes apparent from correspondence received from widely scattered cities that certain problems are of general concern. During the last year, to give one example, many communities were struggling with the problem of released time for religious education. In this and in numerous other instances where there was evidence of widespread interest in a given problem, the Community Service Unit, in addition to replying to the individual inquiry, was instrumental in having other departments of the Committee prepare materials for round-robin distribution.

Round-robin, or circular, letters going out from the Community Service Unit to its entire key mailing list average about two a week. The largest single category into which these letters fall is that calling the attention of local people to the availability of literature suitable for local distribution. This literature is in the form either of reprints from periodicals, or in the form of pamphlets. By publicizing this literature in this way, the Unit has been instrumental in distributing upwards of 250,000 reprints and pamphlets in the course of the year.

The department has also served as the channel through which

materials prepared by other departments of the Committee are put into appropriate hands. Among these materials can be cited a bulletin appearing at fortnightly intervals calling attention to worthwhile radio programs; a similar bulletin listing and analyzing important magazine articles; and a fairly detailed analysis of the anti-Semitic press.

Respectfully submitted,

THE COMMUNITY SERVICE UNIT

REPORT ON THE LIBRARY OF JEWISH INFORMATION

To the Members of the American Jewish Committee:

Your sub-committee charged with the supervision of the Library of Jewish Information submits herewith a report of activities for 1941. As this is the first public report on the Library since its establishment a little over two years ago, we have taken the liberty of saying a few words about its history.

The Library of Jewish Information was organized in November 1939 for the purpose of combining all the Committee's library and research facilities under a single unit. The departments incorporated in the expanded Library were the book and periodical collection, the research staff of the Educational Department and of the general office, the *Contemporary Jewish Record* and the *American Jewish Year Book*. This unit was placed under the direction of, the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Harry Schneiderman. The purposes of the enlarged Library were to furnish the basic data necessary for the effective functioning of all the departments of the American Jewish Committee and to provide a central medium for the dissemination of authoritative information about Jews and Judaism.

While the Library of Jewish Information has been in existence officially about two years, it does not represent a new departure in the program of the American Jewish Committee, but rather an expansion and coordination of the Committee's activities along the same lines in the past. From its very inception the Committee realized that it could not perform its functions without possessing an adequate armory of facts on all aspects of contemporary Jewish life, especially in the social and political fields. Accordingly, it took steps to accumulate books, pamphlets, periodicals and other sources of information, public and private. This material has proved indispensable to the work of the organization and has provided the basis for its reports and publications. As a result, the Committee has long since earned a wide reputation for the accuracy and authoritativeness of its information on Jewish subjects. It was for the purpose of rendering this phase of its work more effective that the Library of Jewish Information was organized.

The activities of the Library of Jewish Information have been carried on through three sub-divisions. Basic, of course, is the library collection itself, which is gradually coming to be widely

recognized as one of the finest special Jewish libraries in the country. In recent times it has been growing at the rate of over 1,000 acquisitions annually, and it now possesses about 15,000 books and pamphlets. In subject matter, the library, restricts itself to contemporary problems of a political and social nature and does not attempt to include material of a belletristic and rabbinic nature, such as are found in the great collections of the New York Public Library and the Jewish Theological Seminary. It is pre-eminent in its collections of material dealing with contemporary anti-Semitism, Nazi Germany, inter-faith relations, refugees, conditions of Jews the world over, problems of democracy today, etc. It receives and files regularly well over 500 periodicals and newspapers, and has an extensive collection of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, etc. on subjects, organizations and individuals within the Committee's range of interest.

When the Library of Jewish Information was established, we were confronted with the problem of reorganizing the library collection in accordance with approved professional methods and techniques. A trained librarian was engaged to supervise this task, assisted by a staff adequate to carry on the necessary routine duties. Throughout 1940 and 1941, the process of reclassification, recataloguing, and, in general, the reorganization of library materials has proceeded steadily and efficiently under the competent direction of the librarian and assistant librarian, and the collection is now organized on a completely professional basis. This has of course resulted in a marked improvement in the services which it renders both to the staff of the Committee and to outsiders using our facilities.

One development during 1941 which provides your sub-committee with a special source of gratification has been the increasing use of the library reading room by persons who come to us seeking information on contemporary Jewish affairs and related subjects. Up to the outbreak of the war, which has resulted in a temporary decrease in the number of outside visitors, an average of 150 persons came to the library each month to consult our special collection. These visitors have included an appreciable number of scholars, writers, and men of public affairs, non-Jewish as well as Jewish, who have found our files invaluable in the preparation of books, pamphlets, articles and reports.

The Library of Jewish Information maintains a research staff which utilizes all this material for the preparation of lists, bibliog-

raphies, memoranda and articles on all the subjects already indicated. The work of this research staff during 1941 may be briefly summarized in the word *service*. Its most important task has been to service the rest of the organization with the basic information necessary for the activities of the Committee. The extent of the research has varied anywhere from a brief item of information to a comprehensive monograph; the subject matter has covered all the ramified fields which of necessity impinge upon the work of an organization like ours. The research staff has consequently had to be well informed in Jewish history and contemporary Jewish affairs, Judaica, European history, American history, the structure and institutions of Nazi Germany, economics, international relations, and related subjects. Its memoranda and reports have proved indispensable to the Executive Staff as a basis for its general activities, to the Educational Department for their publicists and promotional work, and to the Community Service Unit in its cooperative relations with Jewish communities and communal leaders throughout the country.

In addition to its activities as an integral unit of the Committee, the Library of Jewish Information is gradually achieving recognition as the central source of information and material on contemporary problems affecting Jews.

Your Library sub-committee is pleased to report that a constantly increasing number of the requests handled by the research staff have, during 1941, come directly from rabbis, communal leaders, ministers, students, various publications, and other institutions and governmental agencies. The cooperation extended by the Library of Jewish Information to leaders of public opinion and to many organizations, Jewish and non-Jewish, who look to it for research assistance has served to buttress the friendly relations enjoyed by the Committee as a whole with other agencies active in the promotion of wholesome inter-group relations and in the strengthening of our democratic way of life. Your sub-committee welcomes this opportunity to be of wider service, for it realizes that the most effective means of dispelling popular misconceptions about Jews and counteracting false propaganda spread by anti-American forces, is the dissemination of objective and authoritative data.

The most important media for the dissemination of the information prepared by our Library are the two publications, the *Contemporary Jewish Record* and the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK. The *Contemporary Jewish Record* has been in existence for only

three and a half years but has already achieved a reputation as the magazine which meets the needs of both Jews and Christians for an intelligent understanding of the position and achievement of the Jews in the modern world. It has received gratifying praise from leading contemporary historians, men of letters and publicists, for the informative nature of its contents and for its high standards of objectivity and reliability.

A substantial part of the contents are prepared by the staff but in addition the *Contemporary Jewish Record* invites articles dealing with contemporary Jewish life from qualified writers and communal leaders. Some of the more significant articles have been picked up and reprinted in scores of newspapers and magazines in many countries throughout the world.

In 1941, the Library of Jewish Information edited volume 43 of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, which is published annually by the Jewish Publication Society of America. The YEAR BOOK has been prepared in the office of the Committee since 1908 and is the 23rd volume under the editorship of the Library's Director, Mr. Harry Schneiderman. This annual has long been recognized as the standard authoritative reference book of Jewish information. The current volume contains the usual reference features, such as statistics, lists and directories; a number of special articles, two important bibliographies, the usual short biographical sketches of distinguished American Jews, and a comprehensive Review of the Year, summarizing the events affecting Jews during 1940-41. The last feature, which had formerly been the work of the Editor and a few collaborators, was in the current volume prepared by a considerable number of contributors, including members of the staff and outside experts.

During the past few months the Editor, in consultation with the staff, has undertaken a basic study of the contents of the YEAR BOOK with a view toward examining possibilities for improvement in the forthcoming volume. It has been proposed to eliminate as much as possible those sections of the contents not of a permanent reference character and to add other features supplying basic information. It is the purpose of the editors and the publishers to improve the YEAR BOOK as an Almanac of authoritative data on Jewish life, particularly in the United States, so as to make it of wider service to the Jewish and general community.

Two other publications were issued during 1941 for the special information of the Committee staff and a number of communal

agencies with which the Committee cooperates. One was a Bulletin of Articles of Interest in Current National Publications, distributed with the cooperation of our Community Service Unit. The other was a monthly Calendar of Forthcoming Events, designed to furnish advance information on meetings, anniversaries, etc. Both of these were temporarily discontinued at the end of the year, pending a reappraisal of the Committee's research needs.

In addition to the work carried on within the physical confines of our organization, the American Jewish Committee, as you know, also makes contributions to the support of research projects of other agencies whenever it feels that they fall within our field of interest. The most important agency to which financial assistance has been given, is the Synagogue Council of America, which represents the Conservative, Reform and Orthodox wings of Jewish religious life, for the support of its Statistical Bureau. Upon the completion of the work conducted several years ago, by Dr. H. S. Linfield, with the support of the Committee, in collecting statistics on Jewish population and congregations for the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the Synagogue Council established a statistical bureau, at the suggestion of the Committee, which agreed to contribute an annual subsidy for its maintenance.

In common with the sub-committees supervising the other branches of the Committee's activities, your sub-committee on the Library is at present engaged in examining the Library's program in the light of the changed conditions created by American entry into the war. Whether we shall contract or expand these activities, and to what extent, is at present uncertain and depends upon the general orientation of the Committee. It depends, in the final analysis, upon the degree to which we want our organization to be fully informed and to justify its reputation as a repository of thorough, accurate material relating to Jewish life, the problems of anti-Semitism, the attacks on the Jews; and as a source of reliable information to which the general community can turn with confidence. In considering its future, therefore, it seems to us that we can be guided only by our clear awareness of the need for accurate information and our determination to have authentic, carefully compiled, thoroughly documented material for all of the activities in which we are engaged at present or plan to be in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY OF JEWISH INFORMATION