



ANNUAL REPORTS

American Jewish Committee

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* Elected at the 47th Annual Meeting, January 1954.

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

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1953

BY IRVING M. ENGEL

* *Chairman, Executive Committee
The American Jewish Committee*

ONCE AGAIN it is my pleasant task to report to you on AJC's activities during 1953. A detailed account of the Committee's operations here and abroad would require a volume; hence these pages will cover only the highlights.

What sort of a year was 1953 in terms of our interests and responsibilities as Americans . . . as Jews . . . as members of the American Jewish Committee?

It was not a placid year. Consider some of the problems abroad which included:

- Soviet-directed campaigns of open, then covert anti-Semitism against Jews behind the Iron Curtain;
- mounting conflicts in the Middle East;
- problems of encouraging democracy in West Germany while forestalling an upsurge of neo-Nazism;
- Austria's refusal to continue restitution negotiations on matters agreed upon previously;
- assistance required by the Jewish communities of Western Europe to reorganize and improve their shattered communal patterns;
- tensions created by the Finaly affair in France;
- rising tides of Moslem nationalism which threatened the Jews of North Africa;
- and finally—coming closer to home—requests by our coreligionists of Latin America for guidance in their community relations.

Nor was 1953 a placid year on our own national scene where we witnessed:

- rising pressures towards conformity;
- procedural abuses in investigations of espionage;
- the Rosenberg case and its exploitation by Communists to slander America;
- activity by ultra-nationalist groups against the public schools, UN, UNESCO and other democratic institutions;
- efforts of the craftier anti-Semites to gain respectability by infiltrating these ultra-nationalist groups.
- Pro-Arab propaganda attacking Israel and impugning the loyalty of American Jews.

These were but a few of our concerns in 1953. They engaged our interest because, through our Charter and various other declarations during past decades, we pledged ourselves to create a climate of opinion in which no man should suffer injustice, discrimination or humiliation because of his skin color, his birthplace, or his way of worshiping God.

Our work has become increasingly important, for the Hydrogen Age has made the development of the science of human relations a stern condition for mankind's survival.

As H. G. Wells put it, "Humanity is in a race between education and catastrophe."

* Mr. Engel was unanimously elected president of the American Jewish Committee on January 31, 1954.

Our problem therefore is one of education . . . of communication . . . of reaching the human mind.

In advancing our own education and that of our fellowmen, the American Jewish Committee during the past year circulated sixty articles, books and pamphlets, etc. Some were contributions from our own agency; others, prepared in cooperation with America's foremost national organizations. This material appeared in such widely-read magazines as *Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's Monthly*, *Reader's Digest*, *Time*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *American Legion Magazine*, and in the publications of women's clubs, trade unions, and a variety of other groups including Catholic and Protestant journals. Reprints were called for by schools, libraries, educators, clergy, labor leaders and others. Similarly, we contributed to man's better understanding of his fellows through the media of motion pictures, radio and television.

The Committee's activities, however diversified, fall into five broad categories: I Combating various forms of discrimination. II Safeguarding our free institutions. III Improving intergroup understanding. IV Defending the civil and religious rights of Jews abroad. V Education in Jewish attitudes and community issues. Let us consider each in turn.

I. Combating Discrimination

On the sixth anniversary of the epoch-making survey by the President's Committee on Civil Rights, we issued our latest annual review of gains in civil rights practices, *The People Take the Lead*. While this record cannot report that discrimination has been swept from employment, housing, education, and public accommodations, it does cite heartening improvements.

After several months' delay, President Eisenhower reconstituted the Committee on Government Contracts, initiated by President Truman. The appointment to that key committee of Fred Lazarus, Jr., one of our own vice-presidents, is assurance that a determined effort will be made to attain results—an effort which we shall aid as fully as we can. At that committee's request, we proposed new sanctions to prohibit discrimination more effectively than is now done by government contracts. If we can help end discrimination in the millions of jobs involved directly or indirectly in government work, democratic practices in American industry and labor will be vastly strengthened.

While the Administration has promised to use all existing federal powers to end discrimination in employment, we were sorely disappointed by the failure this year to take any steps towards passage of a long delayed federal Fair Employment Practices Law. The value of this measure—as concrete proof of public policy against discrimination as an instrument of education as well as law—needs no argument here. Our long-range educational program to bring the merits of a federal FEP act before the American public will continue.

Meanwhile, on state and local fronts, progress continues steadily, if somewhat haltingly. Last March, Kansas became the twelfth state to pass FEP legislation, although the statute lacks enforcement machinery. Alaska adopted a fully enforceable law. Clairton, Penn., and Duluth, Minn., brought to thirty the number of cities with ordinances barring discrimination in employment. State or city FEP laws now cover approximately one-third of America's population.

If these newly-won laws are to prove effective, their use must be widely understood. The AFL and CIO requested our help in explaining to their millions of members how to file and pursue an FEP complaint under these new statutes. Accordingly, we prepared a 24-page pamphlet, *Your Rights Under State and Local FEP Laws*, which is now in wide use.

DISCRIMINATION IN NATION'S CAPITAL

Racial discrimination has tarnished our nation's capital and diminished our standing throughout the world. Recently, however, marked improvement has been

noted. Discrimination has largely ended in most motion picture houses, restaurants and hotels. Color barriers have been removed from parks, pools and other accommodations run by the Department of the Interior. By presidential order, discrimination has been largely routed from federal employment in the District of Columbia.

In paving the way for these gains, your Committee's experience in community relations and its skill in abating intergroup tensions were made available to the national Administration.

In other localities, we have used various approaches to secure equality of opportunity in public accommodations. Last year, the National Convention of Negro Baptists selected Miami for its annual meeting of 15,000 members. Reservations for the convention were refused by hotel owners, fearful of violating local mores.

Our Miami chapter recognized this situation's explosive potential for endangering relations between Negroes and the white community, Negroes and Jewish hotel-owners in particular, and between Jewish and Christian hotel-owners. Through our chapter leaders, a constructive solution was quietly developed with the help of municipal officials, the Dade County Council on Human Relations, and Christian ministers. After months of skillful negotiation, hotel accommodations to house the convention were secured, with no resultant ill feelings.

One instance of discrimination in public accommodations in New York State presented a new problem. To evade the state law against discrimination, some resorts have masked themselves as "clubs," granting "membership" to those who "satisfactorily" complete an application which inquires about religion and race. On the basis of our test complaint against a specific resort, the New York State Commission Against Discrimination established an important precedent: it struck down the pretext that a place of *public* accommodation can use "club" membership as a discriminatory device; it also ruled that the phrase, "a strictly selected clientele in a Christian community," cannot be used in advertisements.

COURT UPHOLDS AJC POSITION

Two years ago we joined other organizations in successfully urging the U.S. Supreme Court not to allow the courts to enforce restrictive covenants based on race or religion. That gain was consolidated in 1953 when the Court decided (*Barrows v. Jackson*) that if such a covenant is broken, the neighbors cannot sue to collect damages. The Court upheld the position maintained in our brief, filed jointly with the Anti-Defamation League, as a "friend of the court."

As a community relations agency, we have worked steadily, and usually without seeking public attention, to reduce the intergroup tensions so prevalent in changing neighborhoods. An illustration of our chapters' continuing programs is our Chicago chapter's activity in seeking to ease Negro-white conflict in a local community housing project.

The Committee's long-range program to combat quotas in higher education, particularly in medical schools, has opened new opportunities for qualified applicants. Jews, and Catholics of Italian descent, have particularly benefited through the work of our New York Chapter's Committee on Discrimination in Higher Education, in cooperation with other groups. Although we still have far to go, progress in the last three years has indeed been striking. For example, of the seven medical schools in New York State which discriminated against Jews in 1950, six have reduced this practice markedly; one has eliminated it altogether.

MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Our approach to this problem and our methods for its solution are so characteristic of the Committee that they are worth narrating. Sober examination of the policies of the seven medical schools preceded any action. After careful study of rigidly checked data, we were able to demonstrate how admissions criteria, such as "personality rating" and "geographic origin," were misused to cloak discrimination.

We discussed this evidence in private sessions with university officials, boards of trustees, admissions officers and others. These consultations resulted in the gains noted above.

We shall continue our efforts to end discrimination in medical school admissions. A successful campaign would not only strengthen democratic practices but would also insure maximum use of our nation's limited facilities to train the most promising prospective doctors.

Reduction of discrimination in medical schools was part of a happier pattern developing in American higher education. Deeply imbedded patterns of social discrimination are being uprooted. Invigorated by democracy's spread on the campus, students of some colleges have eliminated or revised the restrictive practices which turned many fraternities and sororities into breeding grounds for racial and religious discrimination. Students of Columbia University, for example, voted last year to ban any fraternity which practices discrimination. At other institutions, national fraternities with restrictive clauses are experiencing similar pressures for change from undergraduates and even some alumni.

While the end of discriminatory practices is still not in immediate sight, there is a growing awareness that they cannot be sanctioned in the educational world. Only in schools and universities that are free from bias will our youth adopt the practice as well as absorb the theory of democratic citizenship. The Committee will continue to devote its resources and talents toward such goals.

AJC FURTHERS AMERICAN INTERESTS

In pressing for vitally needed gains in employment, housing, public accommodations, etc., the American Jewish Committee has been guided by no parochial policy nor has it confined its aid to any single group.

Hence our contribution has been to the welfare and security of our nation as a whole. Testimony to this work's importance recently came from the Vice-President of the United States following his return from Asia. He stated in a coast-to-coast broadcast: ". . . by deed and word and thought, it is essential that we prove that the American ideals of tolerance and of equal rights for all do in fact exist, and that we are dedicated to them. A report of racial discrimination, of prejudice in the United States, is blown up by the Communists abroad, and it hurts America as much as espionage agents who turn over a weapon to a foreign enemy. Every American citizen can contribute towards better understanding of American ideals abroad, by practicing and thinking tolerance and respect for human rights every day. . . ."

An educational experience similar to Mr. Nixon's trip abroad might convince every member of the U.S. Congress of the urgent need to remove inequities from our immigration laws. Failure by both political parties to remove the racist provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act was a major setback in 1953. As candidates, both General Eisenhower and Mr. Nixon explicitly condemned the Act's "national origins quota" provision as "a blasphemy on American democracy." Both pledged themselves to bring about the law's revision. To spotlight these unjust, unwise provisions, we produced with the Anti-Defamation League a *Fact Sheet on the McCarran Immigration Act* which had been requested by church groups, community organizations and prominent individuals. This is but one example of a host of educational efforts in which we cooperated.

Instead of redeeming its promise, the Administration supported only an *emergency* refugee bill which purports to admit 219,000 so-called refugees in three years. This measure has so many built-in barriers that the admission of more than a minute fraction of that number seems unlikely. The Act's harshness, compounded by the Immigration Service's rigid interpretation, has permitted only six refugees to enter under its provisions in 1953.

Realism, and long experience with educational efforts to improve our immigration statutes, make us aware that this struggle will not be won easily or quickly.

II. Safeguarding Our Free Institutions

Another major AJC concern has been the defense of democratic institutions which promote the security and dignity of individuals. Consequently, we have been gravely troubled by those twin threats to civil liberties—the Communist conspiracy and the demagogues who exploit the country's justifiable concern about Communism to curtail our liberties.

A few widely publicized Congressional investigations have disturbed us—as they have disturbed so many other responsible organizations—by shamefully misusing Congress' necessary and useful powers of investigation. Individual rights have been callously disregarded in some cases; in others, the loyalty of entire groups—like the clergy—have been impugned.

In combating bigotry, we have long since known that attacks against any group inevitably threaten the rights and security of *all* groups. Therefore, like many lay and religious agencies, we were indignant when: (a) two prominent rabbis, now deceased, were labeled as collaborators with Communists by a witness before the Velde Committee; and (b) when wholesale charges against the loyalty of Protestant clergymen were circulated this past summer by J. B. Matthews, who later became for a short time a staff member of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. President Eisenhower's denunciation of such "generalized and irresponsible attacks (against) the whole of any group of citizens (as) alien to America," drew our hearty endorsement.

IMPROVING CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES

Last November, Congressman Harold H. Velde (R. Illinois), Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, invited the National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC), the National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC) and the American Jewish Committee to discuss his committee's procedures. We accepted his invitation but rejected a bid to evaluate the committee's accumulated "knowledge and material."

It is worth noting that all three agencies united in suggesting a code of fair practices which would apply to *all* Congressional committees and would govern inquiries into the alleged subversive activities not only of the clergy but also of other groups and individuals. We agreed that regardless of the inquiry's nature, due process and the rights of the innocent must be scrupulously respected. Thus in concert with the NCCC and the NCWC, we placed at the Velde Committee's disposal our specialized skills and experience in legal-civic matters such as the procedures of Congressional committees. Moreover, we suggested that "hate groups" parading as anti-Communists be investigated.

While it is too early to predict the outcome, it is clear that a great step will have been taken if the House Committee is prevailed upon to improve its code of procedures and to initiate an investigation of bigots.

Another important development occurred this year when the American Friends Service Committee sought our help in calling an exploratory meeting on how national agencies might strengthen civil liberties in the face of rising assaults. Out of these informal talks has grown an equally informal continuing "Human Freedoms Conference" attended by leaders of sixteen national agencies whose total membership involves millions of Americans. Through effective, voluntary interchange, these organizations have been stimulating local and national activity on such problems as censorship, attacks on the public schools, and Congressional investigations. The Conference's healthy growth augurs well for the future defense of civil liberties in America.

EXPOSING COMMUNIST TACTICS

Our allegiance to democratic institutions has been responsible for our continued zeal in fighting Communism. Our task has been made more difficult by the anti-Semitic claim that all Jews are associated with Communists and by the equally false Communist cry that all anti-Communists are anti-Semites and/or fascists. An example of this Communist tactic occurred last June when Louis Harap, a witness before Velde's Committee, proclaimed that Jews were better off in the U.S.S.R. than in the United States. This Soviet apologist, editor of the Communist-line publication, *Jewish Life*, also declared that the Velde Committee had summoned him not because of his propaganda activities but because he was a Jew.

We promptly sent a statement to the Velde Committee which received prominent attention and was inserted into the *Congressional Record*. In unmasking Harap, we declared that he "is no more a spokesman for the religious group he seeks to exploit than for the democracy he professes to support, for Judaism and communism are utterly incompatible. His injection of the false charge of anti-Semitism . . . is a studied Communist maneuver in the long-standing attempt to besmirch America's treatment of its religious and racial groups while praising the Soviet Union."

Another Communist propaganda campaign which we met through vigorous exposure concerned the Rosenberg case. Our interest was two-fold: (1) as Jews, we desired to repudiate the false claim of anti-Semitism raised by Communists to deceive American Jews; and (2) as Americans, we desired to protect our country's reputation from the circulation abroad of Communist-inspired slanders. Dr. S. A. Fineberg of our staff exposed Communist exploitation of the Rosenberg trial in the *American Legion Magazine*. The article was reprinted in *Reader's Digest* and then expanded into a book, *The Rosenberg Case—Fact and Fiction*. It was favorably received here and the State Department is encouraging its distribution abroad. There is obvious value in the fact that America's answer to world-wide Communist attempts to falsify the Rosenberg case as another Sacco-Vanzetti affair comes from a Jew—in this case, a rabbi on AJC's staff.

STRENGTHENING AMERICAN PRINCIPLES

The Committee's documented and illuminating exposure of Communism has been aided by *Commentary* again this year. Reprints of its articles were ordered by the Eisenhower Administration's top Federal Subversive Activities Control Board, by schools and universities, and by many civic groups.

As part of our constructive effort to combat Communism by upholding American principles, we continued our association with more than fifty other national organizations in "Know Your America Week." This celebration, held in more than 1,600 communities, is the key program of the All-American Conference to Combat Communism, in which we have played a leading role since 1950. President Eisenhower heartily endorsed the "Know Your America Week" educational programs to preserve American freedom. Secretary of the 1953 observance was Joseph J. Woolfson, Director of AJC's Veterans Division.

As part of a broad-gauged interest in America's free institutions, your Committee continued to share in their stout defense against malicious attacks. Let me emphasize that we are not concerned with responsible criticism of such institutions as the public schools and the UN. It is proper that they be subjected to public scrutiny and debate. In contrast to legitimate differences, however warmly held, were assaults against these institutions by unscrupulous groups, led in many instances by known anti-Semites. These attacks may well have passed their crest in 1953. They appear to be receding, as citizens who previously were only passive supporters of these institutions now rally to defend them.

Like other thoughtful American organizations, we have been deeply interested in UNESCO, whose objectives in 1953 included:

- "the observance of Human Rights . . .
- "gathering scientific information about the progress achieved through education by members of ethnic groups in the process of integration into modern society . . .
- "[securing] the right to take part in the cultural life of the community . . .
- "by the dissemination of information, and by teaching, to combat racial prejudice and discrimination . . .
- "to improve education [so] that it promotes harmonious development from early childhood and fosters among children a respect for human rights and dignity."

COOPERATION FOR UNESCO

To spread a wider understanding of America's stake in UN and UNESCO we worked with such national organizations as the American Association for the United Nations, Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church, U.S. Committee for UN Day, and the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. In concert with them, we helped prepare fact sheets, radio programs, television shows, leaders' guides, and other materials.

For example, in response to requests from the Methodist Women, we prepared a popular booklet, *Don't Be Fooled*. It helps people identify malicious assaults on the UN as distinguished from sincere criticism. Some 60,000 copies have been distributed by religious groups, civil organizations, labor unions and others cognizant of America's stake in the UN.

A second example is a fact sheet for Human Rights Day, December 10, requested by the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. It has been widely used by the 1,600 daily newspapers and 2,200 radio and TV stations. You may recall that in 1952 we had produced for the AAUN an exciting 60-second animated cartoon, "There's a U in UN" which most of the nation's two hundred TV stations carried as a public service. It is gratifying to report that in 1953 this film was awarded top honors for advancing human relations by Ohio State University's Institute for Education by Radio-Television. This is the second year in a row that our competence in the burgeoning field of television has been hailed.

UNESCO RECEIVES STUDY

In view of our research program and demonstrated understanding of social action programs, UNESCO's Race Studies Division commissioned us to prepare a monograph, *Racial Equality and the Law*. The study evaluates American success with state FEP laws and discusses the vital role played by voluntary organizations like our own in educating the public about such measures. The monograph was prepared by Dr. Morroe Berger, formerly of our staff and now on the Princeton faculty.

To conclude this brief description of our activities in behalf of the UN and UNESCO, I report with pleasure that during the year our Executive Vice-President, Dr. John Slawson, served on the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO and through his notable contributions enriched its program.

The extent to which these combined efforts in behalf of the United Nations and UNESCO proved fruitful can only be conjectured. However, as reported by Jacob Blaustein to our Executive Committee meeting last October, 84 percent of the American people want the United States to stay in the UN, according to a reliable nation-wide opinion poll.

In defending the public schools, we joined with many educational, religious and civic groups to alert the public to the forces that would imperil public education. Thus we aided the National Education Association in convening a conference on "American Education in a Dangerous Era." It enabled many organizations to ex-

plore such dangers as the drive to censor textbooks, and campaigns to restrict the curriculum to the 3 R's and thus cripple programs which promote intergroup understanding. This national meeting led to plans for regional conferences along parallel lines.

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

Since school-community problems affect all Americans, we welcomed opportunities to promote the exchange of views among the widest number of responsible organizations. Therefore, we participated in the Conference of National Organizations which held its second successful meeting at Arden House this past October. Full and frank discussions of many school-community problems were held by leaders of important national groups. These included the National Association of Manufacturers, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Daughters of the American Revolution, Steelworkers-CIO, the American Association of School Administrators, the National Council of Churches of Christ, the National Catholic Welfare Conference and twenty-five others. The Synagogue Council of America, although invited at our suggestion, has thus far failed to attend.

In contributing toward a broad awareness of America's stake in intergroup education we utilized the mass media channels. A provocative sixty-second animated TV cartoon, based on the brochure, *The 6 R's*, was produced by us and sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education, National Education Association, American Legion and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. State teachers associations have distributed it to stations in virtually every state.

Again this year we helped to publicize the goals of American Education Week—when millions of taxpayers are urged to inspect their schools for themselves. We supplied a fact sheet about this occasion for radio and television and helped schedule radio-TV discussions of educational problems by prominent leaders.

EXPLORING CHURCH-STATE ISSUES

Church-state relations is another controversial issue related to the public schools. We have been gravely concerned lest deeply held convictions regarding this subject induce sectarian strife.

There has been a growing demand to use the public schools more intensively to overcome an alleged lack of religious training among America's youth. Since Bible reading, "released time," and similar "fringe" practices are viewed as inadequate, the introduction of religious subject matter is advocated, with the promise of handling it "factually." We regard such aims as laudable but not necessarily practicable. We fear that the widespread introduction of this proposed program into the public schools would prove prejudicial to religious amity in America.

In line with our interest in maintaining the constitutional wall between church and state, we have been pursuing a quiet but intensive long-range educational study to clarify the issues. Results are becoming clear—although they must be regarded merely as portents of how much remains to be done. For example, after considerable exchange of views, members of an influential American Council on Education subcommittee have begun to question whether religion can be treated "factually" below the high school level. Our staff served as consultants at seminars of both the NEA and the Religious Education Association where these issues were subjected to extended inquiry.

ANTI-SEMITISM'S NEW LOOK

Although healthy and vigorous democratic institutions continue to be our best and surest reliance against the spread of anti-Semitism, we necessarily have been

deeply concerned about the activities of certain ultra-nationalistic groups. Even if they are not now manifestly anti-Semitic, they may prove receptive to bigotry for they are often the targets of professional bigots.

Unlike the old-line anti-Semites whose following during pre-Pearl Harbor days was largely confined to the "lunatic fringe," today's craftier demagogues are seeking respectable auspices. Since experience has taught them that the American public rejects blatant racist appeals, they have learned to mask their bigotry behind campaigns against public school progress, immigration reform, the United Nations and UNESCO, to cite their favorite issues.

Covert anti-Semitism, adroitly manipulated in contrast to overt anti-Semitism, is difficult to combat. To expose it we must scrutinize its mechanisms, personnel and promotional techniques. We must make clear to ultra-nationalists and indeed to all groups in American life their continuing responsibility to recognize and to rid themselves of racists.

The new look in anti-Semitism has not ended the activities of old-line bigots. Prompt and vigorous counteraction is still required—a need which the Committee not only recognizes but strives to meet.

Evidence that the defense of democratic institutions has in fact promoted the security and dignity of American Jews is reflected by an independent nation-wide poll conducted last June. It discloses that, with certain exceptions, attitudes expressed toward American Jews have improved through the past decade.

The use of nation-wide public opinion polls is but one instance of how the Committee seeks to ascertain the facts and then use the most effective techniques to achieve its goals. The application of social science to investigate the nature of prejudice and to reduce it has been one of the Committee's notable achievements.

A recent contribution to the broader understanding of prejudice and bigotry was our booklet, *Science Looks at Anti-Semitism*, the ninth leaflet of the *This Is Our Home* series. It summarizes the researches of more than a score of social scientists who helped to prepare the five-volume series, *Studies in Prejudice*, which AJC sponsored. The leaflet points out that the anti-Semite is usually an "authoritarian personality"—an inflexible, rigid person who is also likely to be anti-Negro, anti-foreign and anti-democratic.

The circulation of these facts to the widest possible audience is no less necessary than their discovery. To help teachers, ministers, editors, social workers, legislators and other civic leaders become as familiar with these findings as scholars, we long wished to supplement the five-volume study with a popular condensation. Lack of funds delayed commissioning this proposed volume until the past year. Now, however, with the aid of Harper Brothers and interested foundations, this project should be completed in 1954.

III. Improving Intergroup Understanding

Promotion of intergroup understanding is the third broad area of our activities. Our work was carried forward with the cooperation of leading sectarian and non-sectarian groups, and through the mass media.

The Committee has always recognized the impact of Christian religious materials on intergroup relations. For more than two decades, we have cooperated in the study of Protestant teaching materials, carried on at Drew University for many years, and more recently at the Yale University Divinity School. Aided by Protestant editors and writers, Yale scholars have been reviewing the Sunday school materials of fourteen Protestant denominations with a membership of 38,000,000 to determine whether these teaching materials promote racial and religious amity or whether they inadvertently perpetuate prejudice. We have felt deeply honored to assist this most valuable survey.

Preliminary findings will be presented to the forthcoming annual convention of

Protestant editors, publishers and lesson writers. They will formulate criteria whereby the merit of each lesson's intergroup emphasis may be judged. These criteria will enable religious educators to help tomorrow's Protestant children develop a better understanding of their brethren of other faiths.

A similar study of Catholic human relations material is being considered by a leading Catholic university.

In other ways, our cooperation with Catholic educators continues. The director of Pittsburgh's parochial school system invited our staff consultant on Catholic-Jewish relations to visit those institutions to discuss human relations—particularly those affecting Catholics and Jews—with students. Conferences are also held with teachers and religious advisors. Similar visits have been made in past years in Boston and Washington, D.C., and are now being made in New York City.

WORKSHOPS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

As you know, the Committee has acted as consultant to a number of universities which have established workshops in human relations. At these sessions teachers and group leaders come together and work out problems related to interpersonal communication and understanding of ethnic and religious differences.

Two pioneering adventures in this field were inaugurated this past year at St. Louis University and at Loyola University in Los Angeles, both Catholic institutions. Our chapters in those cities cooperated as requested in supplying resources, stimulating attendance and providing scholarship aid. Chapter members and staff representatives served as consultants. St. Louis University is the first to finance a human relations center through its own resources and that of a large, general foundation—the Carnegie Corporation.

As a result of these successes, other Catholic institutions are expressing considerable interest in similar workshops.

As a concluding example of interreligious cooperation, let me report that both the National Council of Churches of Christ and the National Catholic Welfare Conference have indicated their desire to help celebrate the 300th anniversary of the settlement of Jews in the United States.

IN BEHALF OF YOUTH

We have worked with many youth-serving agencies including the YMCA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, U.S. Assembly of Youth, National Social Welfare Assembly, Campfire Girls, and the National Jewish Welfare Board, among many others. All these agencies have evinced growing willingness to educate young Americans to accept and understand differences in racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds.

Since 1948, AJC's Youth Division has been formally affiliated with the National Social Welfare Assembly (NSWA). Among its seventy affiliated governmental and voluntary agencies are twenty-one which serve youth.

Two years ago, the NSWA set up an Ad Hoc Committee on Prejudice and Discrimination at our suggestion. Time has proved the value of this committee and so this year it was permanently established to carry on year-round programs. We also assisted the NSWA in meeting the long-felt need for a bulletin to inform the professional staffs and lay boards of welfare agencies about newly published materials and to encourage conferences and institutes on intergroup relations.

A SURVEY ON CAMPING

The NSWA's Committee on Camping completed, with our aid, a careful survey of eighty-eight agency-sponsored camps in thirty-three communities. Our Youth Division and Scientific Research Department helped analyze intergroup practices in these camps and suggested improvement through better staff training. Lay boards as well as camp leaders have commended this work.

Another important youth-serving project is the United States Assembly of Youth.

Affiliated with it are the United Christian Youth Movement, National Catholic Welfare Conference, National Jewish Youth Conference and the YM and YWCA's. The Assembly convened over 300 youthful leaders last September in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to consider how to achieve "The World We Want"—a program which we were asked to help develop.

In addition to working with the agencies that serve youth, we have also worked with publishers of the comic books so widely read by young people. A staff member serves as Chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Comics which has helped publishers eliminate racial and religious stereotypes and other divisive concepts. The industry now sets aside one page each month to teach its young readers about citizenship and the need for intergroup understanding. Recently that page featured immigration and highlighted the coming Tercentenary celebration of American Jews. The currency given these messages can be estimated from the fact that this page appears each month in forty magazines with a combined circulation of 10,000,000 and an estimated readership of 40,000,000.

PANEL OF AMERICANS

A significant development this past year was the launching of Panel of Americans as an independent organization. The Panel is an eleven-year-old dramatic experiment nurtured by us to improve human relations on the American campus. Each Panel consists of college students representing the major faiths and nationality groups who discuss frankly the particular problems they encounter as a result of their race, religion or cultural background. To date, Panel audiences total more than one million persons. The Panel's successful record has enabled it to become independent and to seek grants from private foundations. On its governing National Council are some of our most distinguished AJC leaders.

Our intergroup work is also advanced through films and other mass media. For example, in 1953 we issued a revised catalogue of the best 16 mm. educational films on human relations, community relations, democracy, American history and mental health. This catalogue, *Selected List of Human Relations Films*, has been used widely by schools, libraries and community organizations in our own country and abroad since it made its first appearance in 1950.

Our film, "Make Way for Youth," produced in 1948, has now been seen by an estimated 25,000,000 people in the United States, Austria, Germany and Japan. Among those who have praised the film's effectiveness in improving the interfaith attitudes of school children is the Office of the United States High Commissioner for Germany.

Though too gravely handicapped by lack of funds to produce other educational films—a subject which Dr. Slawson will explore in his address—we have sought to meet this need in some measure by adapting commercial films. For the past year, we have worked with the State Commissions against Discrimination of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island to adapt the intergroup "messages" of successful first-run Hollywood films to show to school children throughout the country. Two such adaptations have been completed, "The Lawless" and "A Medal for Benny."

We also carried forward our work in the Hollywood Motion Picture Project, established in 1948 to unify the cooperation of national and local Jewish organizations with the film industry. Through this project, we seek to help the industry eliminate racial and religious stereotypes.

The recent decision of the Federal Communications Commission to grant educational television licenses to "community service stations" was most gratifying. Our chapters have been urged to join other local groups in establishing citizens commissions to select programs and to supervise station operations. These "community service stations" will help break down the walls of misunderstanding and enable TV to bring the spirit of democracy to every hearthstone.

IV. Defending the Civil and Religious Rights of Jews Abroad

Forty-seven years ago, our Charter committed us to defend the "civil and religious rights of Jews in any part of the world . . . to alleviate the consequences of persecution and to afford relief from calamities affecting Jews." In fulfilling these obligations, we have acted through altruism and also in our own self-interest. For in this steadily shrinking world, the infectious evils of bigotry and persecution are more contagious than ever before.

Since Jacob Blaustein and Zachariah Shuster will both discuss our work abroad, this section will be brief and will focus on the relation of these efforts to the American scene.

As a prelude to considering events abroad, let me record two grave setbacks this past year on the international scene: our government's decision not to press for adoption of enforceable covenants to protect human rights; and our government's decision not to ratify the Genocide convention.

TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

Like many other organizations, we deeply regretted the Administration's stand that it would no longer support Human Rights Covenants enforced by legally binding treaties. At the Executive Committee's Fall meeting, Judge Philip Halpern, Executive Committee member and legal adviser to the U.S. delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights, presented the rationale for abandoning an approach previously adopted by our government and warmly supported by many American organizations, including our own. As you know, from the 1945 San Francisco Conference onward, we have wholeheartedly supported an affirmative program for the international protection of human rights.

After a spirited consideration of the reasons which prompted the Administration to substitute an "educational" approach for the "treaty" method, we decided to review our policy carefully in the light of post-war political developments. The Committee on International Organizations, headed by Mr. James Marshall, was requested to study the Covenant approach and other methods and to recommend policy for consideration at a future national meeting.

In the course of that review, we cooperated in arranging a symposium last November on the international protection of human rights. It was held under the auspices of the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations, a non-governmental consultative organization consisting of the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Alliance Israélite Universelle and ourselves. At this symposium, the complex legal and political problems were discussed by specialists in international law and international relations. We reported the proceedings to our chapters and encouraged them to study the issues in preparation for the forthcoming report by the Committee on International Organizations. Meanwhile, we agreed that regardless of the difficulties and whatever means are selected as most practicable within the framework of American interests we shall continue our full support in behalf of international protection of human rights.

EXPOSING COMMUNIST ANTI-SEMITISM

The first few months of 1953 saw the continuation of an official, highly publicized campaign in the Soviet Union and its satellites against 2,500,000 Jews. Through fact sheets distributed last March to the nation's editors, columnists and other opinion molders, we outlined the strategy behind the Soviet campaign of anti-Semitism. Our fact sheet pointed out that like Stalin's previous drives against other ethnic and religious groups, agitation against Jews gave Communist-dominated peoples new scapegoats. Second, Communists used their anti-Semitic campaigns to

curry favor with neo-Nazis in Germany, extreme Arab fanatics in the Middle East and fascists in South America and elsewhere. These were the elements the Kremlin sought to forge into a weapon against America and the free world.

As an example of the public service rendered through such fact sheets, let me cite the *Information Service Bulletin*, issued by the National Council of Churches of Christ last February, which was devoted to "Anti-Semitism—New and Old." In exposing so clearly the pattern of Soviet anti-Semitism, it drew heavily upon the AJC with appropriate credit for our researches.

Stalin's death last March marked no end of state-directed anti-Semitism but merely a shift in tactics. The falsity of charges lodged earlier against the Moscow doctors—nine of whom were Jews—and the fact that their "confessions" had been extracted by torture were revealed in an extraordinary government statement. Subsequent events make clear that this admission was motivated by no belated concern for individual lives. Rather it was another maneuver in a complicated struggle for power among Stalin's successors. The Malenkov regime merely substituted covert anti-Semitism and secret or non-publicized prosecutions in place of the earlier, widely heralded anti-Semitic show trials and front-page accusations about "Zionism . . . rootless cosmopolitanism . . . Jewish bourgeois nationalism," etc. As revealed through reports from our European office anti-Semitism continues, although it is now carried on more covertly. Jewish community leaders have been arrested, tried and sentenced in Rumania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. In East Germany, almost every person of Jewish origin has been purged from public life; Protestants and Catholics too have felt the weight of state persecution.

WORLD OPINION IS BEST HOPE

We recognize that despite all our best efforts, the position of 2,500,000 Jews behind the Iron Curtain remains most precarious. Their strongest bulwark may well depend upon world public opinion—a force which even the Kremlin recognizes on occasion. To keep the world informed about Soviet practices and to destroy the myth that Communism protects ethnic and religious minorities, we continued to publish numerous studies and reports. Among the most significant is *The Jews in the Soviet Satellites*, a 637-page volume on Communist oppression of Jewish life in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary. On-the-scenes reports and careful study of official documents as well as uncensored material smuggled through the Iron Curtain make this book a major contribution to the free world's knowledge of Eastern Europe. *The New York Times* (December 27, 1953) called it—like its predecessor, *The Jews in the Soviet Union*—a "comprehensive and scholarly volume, bearing the same mark of careful scholarship and objectivity. . . . It can be regarded as a definitive work. . . . The four authors are thoroughly familiar with the background and the languages of the region. . . . The whole pathetic story [is] unfolded here with careful documentation."

The aftermath of Nazism is still with us, requiring heavy outlays of time and energy. Vigilance is still needed to forestall the revival of a tyranny which held vast portions of Europe in thrall for ten terrible years.

Mr. Blaustein, as you know, has been a leading figure in German and Austrian restitution negotiations. In the past year he made his fourth trip to Europe on these matters, in addition to numerous other journeys on behalf of our goals.

RESTITUTION PAYMENTS BEGIN

As Senior Vice-President of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, his contacts with high government officials and his negotiating skills contributed signally toward securing the 1952 agreement whereby the Federal Republic acknowledged its moral responsibility for Nazi crimes against humanity. In partial restitution for material damages, Bonn pledged \$822,000,000 to Israel and to the

Conference to help alleviate the plight of Jewish victims of Nazism. A second phase of these negotiations concerned awards to *individual* victims of Nazi persecution. To insure this agreement's execution, Mr. Blaustein carried on numerous discussions with high American officials in 1953. These efforts were crowned by enactment of Bonn's Federal Indemnification Law which enables individual Jewish claimants to receive benefits estimated at \$700 to \$900 million.

In 1953, he also participated in negotiations aimed at securing similar agreements with Austria. Last spring, after years of delay, Austria finally invited the Committee for Jewish Material Claims against Austria to negotiate heirless property claims and related problems, including the right of living claimants to indemnities. We undertook these negotiations, supported by the U.S. government which agreed that solution of the heirless property problem is integral to any settlement. A much smaller sum is involved than in Germany's case. Heirless property left behind by one-third of Austria's Jews approximates \$12,000,000.

In the face of its prior agreement to take up heirless property claims, Austria unexpectedly declared this summer that it could not continue discussions until six months after the Allies' treaty with it becomes effective. Chancellor Raab was notified that if Austria persisted in its refusal, further negotiations would be impossible.

As the year closed, delegates of the Claims Committee, led by Jacob Blaustein, conferred with Assistant Secretary of State Robert Murphy. Assurances of support from the United States, Great Britain and France lead us to feel reasonably certain that however protracted and difficult the negotiations prove, they will ultimately be settled.

NEO-NAZISM STILL A PROBLEM

The Federal Republic of Germany—revived and vigorous—continues to concern the free world.

Last July, we published our third on-the-scenes report, *Neo-Nazi Strength and Strategy in Western Germany*. Its contents, widely noted in America's newspapers, and in publications of veterans organizations and free trade unions, apprised the American people of these dangerous undercurrents in German politics:

- Systematic infiltration of neo-Nazis into a number of legitimate German political parties.
- Revived endorsement of the "military virtues" which supposedly brought prestige and power to Germany.
- Widespread transformation of German war criminals into war heroes.
- Renewed activities by Nazi authors and ideologists.
- Appearance of open anti-Semitic agitation for the first time since 1945.

On the surface, September's general elections favored democratic influences and were a crushing defeat for Communists and neo-Nazis alike. Nevertheless, the contest revealed dangerous tendencies which call for American vigilance. For example, all political parties, except the two largest, nominated former leading Nazis and militarists among their candidates. Campaign themes exploited by the extreme right included the charge that Jewish material claims were an unjustified burden on the German economy.

While a democratic leader won, his election was far more of a personal triumph than an endorsement of principles and issues. Underneath the relatively calm surface of Dr. Adenauer's regime linger some anti-democratic elements that previously led to catastrophe.

Obviously, continuing care must be exercised not only by the Federal government and the leading opposition party, both of which reject neo-Nazism, but also by all democratic forces.

The U.S. State Department has requested our cooperation in sending Dr. Fineberg of our staff to Germany in connection with the World Brotherhood Group. In the spring of 1954, he will discuss with German educators, religious leaders, members of the bar and other opinion molders how best to combat prejudice. We are happy to comply with our government's request and thus continue to aid in the broad effort to quicken democracy in West Germany.

REVIVING JEWISH COMMUNAL LIFE

Within the grave limits imposed by having only a two-man European Staff, we have endeavored to assist the Jewish communities of West Europe in the long task of reestablishing their community structure, rebuilding their cultural institutions, and fighting anti-Semitism. In Greece, where the hard-pressed Jewish community has dwindled to 7,000 we sought to intercede with the Greek government to grant them heirless property left by victims of Nazism. In Turkey, where 50,000 Jews are trying to build a more modern and effective community organization, we have supplied advice and guidance. We have encouraged democratic Jewish publications in France, Luxemburg, Austria and West Germany to expose Communist propaganda appeals to Jews.

Our resources for these purposes have been pitifully small compared to the magnitude and importance of the task. It behooves us, therefore, to augment our efforts substantially along lines proposed by Zachariah Shuster.

THE FINALLY AFFAIR

Among the problems which arose abroad in 1953 was the "Finally affair." It generated considerable interreligious tension in France and might have had repercussions in America had not an amicable solution been expedited. *Time* magazine, *Commentary*, and other publications have publicized the facts about these two young Jewish boys whose custody was the subject of a prolonged and unhappy contest. After years of evasive tactics and considerable litigation, their self-constituted Catholic guardian was ordered by France's highest court to surrender the Finally boys to relatives of their parents who had been killed by the Nazis. In defiance of the court's order, the boys were hidden temporarily in Catholic institutions in France and Spain. We advised Jewish community leaders in France of the difficult public relations aspects of the case which was widely regarded abroad not as a contest between two religious groups but a clear-cut issue of church and state. To prevent the spread of tensions, we discussed an amicable solution with the French Ambassador to the United States, a representative of the Spanish government and with leading members of the American Catholic hierarchy. In addition, we supplied background material to the American press. As you know, the boys were returned and are now living with relatives in Israel.

An important role in influencing French opinion on this matter, as on other community questions, was played by the magazine, *Evidences*. This French counterpart of *Commentary*, published by our Paris office, is closely read by French intellectuals and other opinion molders. Like *Commentary*, it has contributed to a wider understanding of Soviet totalitarianism, Communist exploitation of the Rosenberg case, Arab-Israel tensions and matters of Jewish communal interest. Indeed, American officials have commended its effectiveness in winning friends for the United States and counteracting Communist propaganda on the Continent.

Recent unrest and violence between the French and Moslems have made us increasingly aware of the precarious position of 500,000 Jews in North Africa and the even more critical position of 80,000 Jews in independent Arab countries. Although the past year was marked by no serious anti-Semitic outbreaks, the rising tide of nationalism constantly threatens Jewish security.

JEWS OF FRENCH MOROCCO

In the past year we published *The Social and Legal Status of the Jews of French Morocco*, an English summary of the first study ever made of those 200,000 Jews. Sponsored by our sister organization, the Alliance Israélite Universelle, the survey revealed that Jews have neither the status of French citizens nor of subjects of the Sultan. Jews are viewed as "guests" who remain in the country on sufferance. Their social, legal and economic status is subject to the whim of administrative officials.

As we have noted in previous years, there is no one clearly marked approach whereby we can help overcome these difficulties in short order. The utmost tact, diplomacy, patience and skill will be required.

Although we are not a relief organization, in 1953 the Committee supported the resettlement of thousands of homeless, stateless Jews by persuading the Swiss government to release \$3,300,000 in blocked German marks. This accomplishment was achieved last fall after seven years of delicate negotiation in Washington, Geneva and London. As part of the German reparations to the Allies, this sum went to the International Refugee Organization which allocated most of it to the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee.

SOUTH AMERICAN JEWS

Many of Latin America's 630,000 Jews know the insecurity of living under undemocratic regimes. Although these governments have not recently been hostile toward Jews, the latter cannot risk engaging in political movements to secure democratic rights lest the various administrations crush such efforts through anti-Semitic retaliation. On the other hand, if they cooperate with present regimes, they run the risk of arousing the antipathy of liberal groups. The third alternative—refusing to be counted on either side—means an unhealthy, sterile isolation.

Within the severe limits imposed by a small budget and a staff of one professional for an entire continent, we have sought to help the Jewish communities face their problems realistically. In general, our approach has been to encourage them to recognize that integration is most likely to afford lasting security. Through contributions of staff services, but with relatively little financial aid, we have stimulated certain aspects of a constructive community relations program. In Argentina, for example, we have cooperated closely with our sister organization, the *Instituto Argentino de Cultura e Informacion*, which has engaged in Jewish cultural activities and community relations work. The *Instituto*, aided by our representative, has launched a new quarterly magazine of high caliber whose resemblance to *Commentary* is symbolized by its title, *Commentario*. The *Instituto* also issues a weekly press service and sponsors a weekly radio program. A prize is awarded annually to the best book on problems of liberalism and democracy in Latin America. Another award was made to a book about the contributions of Jews to the struggle to gain independence from Spain.

In Chile, Uruguay and Brazil, where Jewish communal organization is less advanced than in Argentina, we have also worked with existing associations. AJC's Latin American representative, Maximo Yagupsky, has become active in the Jewish community life of several other nations. He founded the new *Instituto Judío* of Peru, helped to organize an office for the placement of a thousand Jewish immigrants in Paraguay, and has been asked to help reorganize the Jewish school system of Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Among our activities in Latin America, we publish a semi-monthly Yiddish digest about the Jewish communities of the United States and Latin America. We also issue a monthly bulletin in Spanish for the Latin American press. We have inspired the translation into Spanish of articles on genocide and our reports on neo-Nazism. The latter have helped counteract Nazi influences in South America.

MIDDLE EAST: AREA IN CRISIS

At other sessions of this Meeting, we shall deal at length with the relationship of American Jews and Israel and also with the rising tensions in the Middle East. Since Dr. Isador Lubin will explore these subjects in his presentation, this section will be very brief.

The past months have seen a most dangerous deterioration in Arab-Israel relations. Border clashes, retaliatory raids and hundreds of other "incidents" have kept the Middle East in turmoil. Following the deplorable Kibya attack, our Executive Committee last October forthrightly condemned acts of violence that had been committed by *both* sides. We called upon the United Nations ". . . to deal with the entire Middle East situation" and to help fashion the "enduring peace . . . which alone can bring to this region political stability and vital economic development." We also called upon America, France and Great Britain to fulfill their responsibilities assumed under the Tripartite Declaration of 1950, to maintain peace in the Middle East.

The explosive Middle East situation has had multiple repercussions in our own country. The Arab League, for example, spent vast funds in 1953 to propagandize against Israel and to impugn the loyalty of American Jews. Convinced that a full and impartial presentation of pertinent facts is the best way to counteract such propaganda, our staff discussed various aspects of Arab-Israel disputes with scholars, magazine writers, and editors of Protestant and Catholic publications. It is heartening to report that this exchange of viewpoints proved helpful. We likewise placed these facts before radio and TV program directors and commentators. To cite one specific example—we helped prepare a half-hour dramatic radio program about Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk's soil restoration projects in the Middle East and his proposal for a Jordan River Valley authority.

REJECTING BOTH EXTREMES

Israel's relations with the bordering Arab states obviously concerned us as Americans and as Jews. Should we also be concerned about certain of Israel's internal actions as a sovereign state, such as its Nationality Law, its Land Acquisition Act, its treatment of minorities and even the nature of its church-state relations? To what extent do such measures impinge upon our own position? How should we—in the light of the past six years—interpret our 1949 Statement of Views which declared: "Citizens of the United States are Americans and citizens of Israel are Israelis; this we affirm with all its implications. . . . Within the framework of American interests, we shall aid in the upbuilding of Israel as a vital spiritual and cultural center. . . ."

Careful examination of AJC policies regarding Israel, the relationship between Israelis and American Jews, and our procedures to implement those policies was entrusted to a special ad hoc Committee on Israel, with Dr. Lubin as Chairman. While we have been subjecting our own conceptions to the most searching scrutiny, ideological extremists—some Zionist leaders at one end, and some Council for Judaism leaders at the other—have exchanged recriminations publicly. We have eschewed general debate with either group, except for one internationally publicized declaration last August which we could not permit to go uncorrected. At a meeting of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva, its acting president was quoted as declaring that "there is no other state in the world where nearly 90 per cent of the people live outside of it. . . . Jews in the Western world must support Israel but above all they must go to live in Israel."

An unequivocal reply which summarizes our philosophy was released the next day by Jacob Blaustein. He noted that Dr. Goldmann's strange doctrine was "refuted by virtually all Jews in the free world, including the United States" and had

also been specifically repudiated three years earlier by the Prime Minister of Israel himself.

Our statement, which was supplemented by similar expressions from others, including our Honorary Vice-President, Senator Herbert H. Lehman, concluded:

"Those Jews who of their own volition wish to go to Israel or need to go there will of course do so. This is a matter of individual choice. But to speak of immigration to Israel as a *duty* of Jews throughout the world is to subvert the basic conception of citizenship and to assume that Israel is the only place where Jews can live in security and dignity. We reject this false doctrine unqualifiedly and in so doing we are confident that we speak in behalf of virtually every American Jew. In practice the falseness of this view propounded by Dr. Goldmann is fully demonstrated by the fact that since the founding of the State of Israel more than five years ago, less than 2,000 American Jews have emigrated to Israel. This small number should be related to a Jewish population in America of approximately five million.

"To American Jews, America is home. The American Jewish Committee opposes any ideology which implies that Jews have not built or cannot continue to build a wholesome, enduring, and integrated life for Jews in the United States."

V. Jewish Attitudes and Community Issues

It is self-evident that the security of Jews in America is directly related to an appreciation of our spiritual heritage and our understanding of how the highest ideals of Judaism and Americanism are mutually enriching. With this in mind, we published in 1953 the tenth pamphlet in the popular *This Is Our Home* series. Its title, *For Those Who Are Searching*, indicates the intent to stimulate personal reflection about our Jewish heritage and its meaning for ourselves and our children. Its focus is not on theology—it is not a pamphlet to persuade readers to orthodox, conservative or reform Judaism. Rather, it explores questions which we ourselves must answer if we are to enhance our own sense of security and self-acceptance, and to develop the most satisfying relations with our fellow men.

RESEARCH INTO JEWISH ATTITUDES

An effective program to promote self-acceptance among American Jews and to perpetuate the vitality of our spiritual heritage must be grounded on factual knowledge of *current* attitudes and practices. While the views of non-Jews concerning Jews have been widely studied, comparatively little is known about the attitudes of American Jews toward themselves and their non-Jewish neighbors. To meet this need, our Scientific Research Department conducted more than 400 intensive interviews with approximately 200 Jewish families in Trenton, New Jersey. Their opinions were recorded about anti-Semitism, Israel, intermarriage, social relations with non-Jews, religious observance, Jewish education for their children, and other basic subjects. As part of this ground-breaking study, we also inquired into the extent to which children share or reject their parents' views. The final report is not yet ready but these general findings have become evident:

- Eight out of ten adults and nine out of ten teen-agers define themselves as Jews principally in terms of religion.
- Overwhelmingly, their primary political and emotional ties and allegiance are centered in America.
- Almost unanimously, both adults and adolescents express favorable attitudes toward Israel.

These findings are heartening indications that AJC's philosophy is widely accepted. When completed, this survey will provide useful information and fresh

insights to carry forward our program based on the philosophy of full participation in American life and retention of Jewish traditions.

JEWISH RELIGION AND CULTURE

It is worth noting that in 1953 we devoted considerable efforts to promote a wider understanding of Judaism through radio and television programs. With our cooperation, scores of radio and TV programs were presented over America's major networks and stations. In this work, as in other areas, we aided other organizations and individuals to contribute toward the common goal. Thus, the first radio and television workshop for rabbis was launched in 1953 under the auspices of the New York Board of Rabbis and our New York Chapter. Fifty-four rabbis from six states received a comprehensive introduction to television and radio techniques so that they might help elevate the standards of religious broadcasting and enlarge their contribution to better interfaith understanding. That workshop, made possible through the Columbia Broadcasting System, was so successful that we were asked to help run it annually in New York and to introduce it to other major cities. A similar workshop has been set up in Los Angeles through our chapter; others will be held in various AJC chapter cities.

Our role in this project is more than another demonstration of our "know how" in utilizing mass media to promote interfaith understanding; it also indicates how, as a secular agency, we have cooperated with Jewish religious bodies.

The past year witnessed a variety of other AJC activities to help create a better understanding of Jewish values among Jews as well as non-Jews. The enlightening article in *Look* magazine, "What Is a Jew?" by Dr. Morris Kertzer, head of our Interreligious Division, was expanded into a popular book of the same title. Eliezer Greenberg, our Yiddish press specialist, and Zachariah Shuster, Director of our European office, attended the 25th International Congress of Poets, Essayists and Novelists, which was held in Dublin. They were responsible for its theme: "The literature of people whose language restricts wide recognition." Both helped convey a wider appreciation of the richness and flexibility of Yiddish and emphasized its deeply humanistic character.

The fifty-fourth annual edition of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK as usual was hailed for its scholarly presentation of events and trends in Jewish life here and throughout the world. Among its 627 pages were articles of special interest covering Jewish population data; state laws against discrimination; curriculum trends in Jewish education in the U.S.; political trends in West Germany; developments behind the Iron Curtain, particularly the Czechoslovakian purges; economic, political, cultural and demographic developments in Israel; and finally, a report on German collective indemnity to Israel and world Jewry.

COMMENTARY'S CONTRIBUTIONS

This report to you would not be complete without special mention of *Commentary*, now in its eighth year. In the previous pages, I have cited articles which helped illuminate various areas of our work. Recent issues have explored the relation of American Jews to Israel, Soviet strategy, group life in America, threats to civil liberties, problems of intergroup relations, and helped interpret the meaning of the Old Testament and classical Jewish writings for today's world.

A major segment of Jewish communal leaders and opinion molders in the United States are among *Commentary's* 23,000 readers, who also include many of the intellectual leaders of sixty-six countries. In his Phi Beta Kappa oration last June at Harvard, Elmer Davis quoted from the magazine mentioning it by name. Its articles are frequently cited by leading magazines and newspapers and have been widely used by government agencies such as the National War College, ECA and the U.S. Information Agency. Thus its influence extends beyond that of many larger publications.

Our work went forward in such full measure in 1953 because the American Jewish Committee has continued to grow and its leadership has been augmented by younger men and women throughout the country.

Indeed, this past year, perhaps more than ever before, our chapters made the agency's national program meaningful through their own vigorous activity. This report has already covered the human relations workshops established at various universities through the cooperation of our Los Angeles, St. Louis and Indianapolis chapters; our Seattle chapter is planning a similar venture. Our Wilkes-Barre chapter conducted with other agencies a fruitful all-day institute on community relations problems. Our Los Angeles chapter effectively represented our national organization by making our participation in the Hollywood Motion Picture Project a valuable endeavor.

Twelve chapters now conduct discussion groups and fifteen issue their own newsletters. Eight chapters have been engaged in a careful evaluation of local community needs which require action. These are but a few scattered examples since Dr. Slawson will cite others in his address.

CHAPTERS GROW IN STRENGTH

Our chapters' increasing influence in their communities can be seen in the fact that the downward trend of welfare fund allocations to the Joint Defense Appeal (fund-raising arm of AJC and the Anti-Defamation League) has been halted in Philadelphia, Newark, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Miami, among other cities. Our chapters have also provided necessary leadership to the independent JDA campaigns in New York and Chicago and have sparked direct giving to JDA in various welfare fund cities.

Indeed, the increasing desire of our chapters throughout the country to overcome the barriers of geography, time and expense to participate more fully in the formation and execution of policy, led to the creation last May of a special ad hoc Committee on Lay Committees. Its purpose: to revamp our lay structure so as to utilize the talents and resources of devoted members even more effectively than in the past.

* * * * *

OUR FAITH IN THE FUTURE

The recent launching of the world's first atomic-powered submarine and the fearful explosions of the H-Bomb are grim reminders of man's new-found ability to destroy himself. Like most Americans, we soberly recognize this dread possibility, but we are nevertheless buoyed up by the conviction that it will be averted through progress in our moral and social order. Our nation's history sustains this faith and heartens us as we engage in the never-ending task of changing man's outlook through education.

It is fitting to conclude an annual review on a note of historical perspective. Therefore it might be useful for us to remember that we are engaged in no small or temporary enterprise. Ours is a far-flung endeavor. If we survey its whole range, not in terms of weeks or months, but across the years, we cannot fail to sense stirring achievements. A new climate of religious and racial amity has been generated in the last decade. This accomplishment reinforces our faith that today's plans will result in even greater progress tomorrow.

As we strive to obtain for all mankind the rights set forth in America's basic documents of freedom, we claim no monopoly and seek none. The American Jewish Committee proudly joins with men of good will everywhere to bring to fruition the American dream of justice, freedom and equal opportunity for all.

Jewish Publication Society of America

REPORT OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR

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DAVID J. GALTER	Philadelphia
DR. ELI GINZBERG	New York
REV. DR. NELSON GLUECK	Cincinnati
DR. JUDAH I. GOLDIN	New York
REV. DR. ROBERT GORDIS	Rockaway Park
REV. DR. SIMON GREENBERG	New York
DR. ABRAHAM J. HESCHEL	New York
DR. LEO L. HONOR	Philadelphia
DR. LOUIS L. KAPLAN	Baltimore
DR. MORDECAI M. KAPLAN	New York
REV. DR. MAX D. KLEIN	Philadelphia
REV. DR. BERTRAM W. KORN	Philadelphia
RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD	New York

¹ Term expires in 1955. ² Term expires in 1956. ³ Term expires in 1957.

DR. A. LEO LEVIN	Philadelphia
REV. DR. FELIX A. LEVY	Chicago
REV. DR. JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN	New York
MARVIN LOWENTHAL	New York
DR. JACOB R. MARCUS	Cincinnati
DR. RALPH MARCUS	Chicago
ALBERT MORDELL	Philadelphia
REV. DR. JULIAN MORGENSTERN	Cincinnati
DR. ABRAHAM A. NEUMAN	Philadelphia
SH. NIGER (S. CHARNEY)	Brooklyn
DR. HARRY M. ORLINSKY	Brooklyn
DR. KOPPEL S. PINSON	New York
REV. DR. DAVID DE SOLA POOL	New York
DR. JOSEPH REIDER	Philadelphia
DR. ABRAM L. SACHAR	Waltham
DR. SAMUEL SANDMEL	Cincinnati
HARRY SCHNEIDERMAN	New York
REV. DR. SAMUEL SCHULMAN	New York
J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.	Philadelphia
DR. EPHRAIM SPEISER	Philadelphia
DR. SHALOM SPIEGEL	New York
HARRY STARR	New York
EDWIN WOLF, 2ND	Philadelphia
DR. HARRY A. WOLFSON	Cambridge

THE SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

THE SIXTY-SIXTH Annual Meeting of The Jewish Publication Society of America was held on May 16, 1954, at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, 9th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pa., at three o'clock in the afternoon. The Honorable Louis E. Levinthal, President of the Society, presided. In attendance were members of the Society, Officers, Trustees, and members of the Publication Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Myer Feinstein, Treasurer of the Society, reported as follows:

The Jewish Publication Society, which operates on an annual budget of nearly one quarter of a million dollars, conducts a fairly large small business, so that it would be quite time-consuming if I were to read a detailed income statement and balance sheet. Instead, I should like to give the high lights of the auditor's report for the year 1953.

First, let me point out that we lived within our means during the past year, since our total income amounted to \$248,792.62 while our total expenditures amounted

to \$244,064.04, so that we had a balance of \$4,728.58, which was transferred to the surplus account. Included was \$90,633.83 from membership dues; \$63,632.48 from sale of Bibles; \$59,304.89 from sale of other books; \$10,080.33 from the Jacob R. Schiff Fund; \$16,622.31 from other donations and subventions; and \$8,518.78 as "miscellaneous" income.

May I point out that this fine achievement was made possible by the receipt of \$26,702.64 in subventions from the Jacob R. Schiff Fund, Welfare Funds and donations from individuals. Without these subventions, the Society would have incurred an operating loss of \$21,982.06.

Expenditures of \$244,064.04 break down to \$136,666.37 for the production costs of books sold and \$107,397.67 for other operating expenses. The Society was faced during 1953, as in the preceding postwar years, with increasing external costs for the compositor, printer, and bookbinder as well as increasing internal administrative costs. Still, we have held the line on membership dues and made no increases during 1953 in the selling prices of our books and Bibles.

Our comparative balance sheets also reflect a healthier condition. We reduced the valuation of our inventory of books from \$71,982.06 at the end of 1952 to \$41,011.08 at the end of 1953 in order to appraise this value more realistically. Also, we reduced our loans payable from \$24,842.63 to \$8,506.00 and our accounts payable from \$24,292.16 to \$19,188.29. This improvement in our cash position was made possible by the receipt of \$20,500.00 from the sale of machinery previously used by the Hebrew Press.

In summary, may I point out that the Society is putting its financial house in order, but on a strictly day-to-day basis. We have no reserves (other than the restricted Jacob R. Schiff Fund) with which to plan for essential long-term projects, nor do we have any operating reserve for current administrative purposes. Such financing is essential if the Society is to operate on a solid financial basis in order to fulfill its great capacity for service to the cultural life of American and world Jewry.

Respectfully submitted,
MYER FEINSTEIN, *Treasurer*

The Executive Secretary, Lesser Zussman, reported that the Society's applications for inclusion in the 1953 campaigns of Federations and Welfare Funds had been approved by thirty-one communities, with many more pending for 1954. Consequently, it is hoped that the Society will be able to stabilize its financial structure through welfare fund subventions. In the course of his report, the Executive Secretary introduced and paid tribute to Mrs. Pearl Forster, who has completed thirty-five years of devoted service as the Society's membership representative in New York City.

Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, Chairman of the Publication Committee, reported on the manuscripts and projects considered by his committee. In 1954—American Jewry's Tercentenary year—the Society plans to publish ten books, of which five will be in the field of Americana.

Judge Louis E. Levinthal, President, submitted his annual report (as printed on p. 640-47).

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee takes pleasure in presenting this report.

We unanimously recommend the following as officers, honorary officers, and trustees of the Society—the officers and honorary officers for a one-year term, and trustees for terms of three years.

OFFICERS

EDWIN WOLF, 2ND, *President* (1st term)
 CHIEF JUSTICE HORACE STERN, *1st Vice President* (43rd term)
 SOL SATINSKY, *2nd Vice President* (2nd term)
 DR. JACOB R. MARCUS, *3rd Vice President* (1st term)
 MYER FEINSTEIN, *Treasurer* (2nd term)
 LESSER ZUSSMAN, *Secretary & Executive Secretary* (5th term)
 JUDGE LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, *Chairman, Publication Committee* (11th term,
 having served 10 terms previously, from 1939-49)
 DR. SOLOMON GRAYZEL, *Editor* (16th term)

HONORARY PRESIDENT

J. SOLIS-COHEN, JR.

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

SAMUEL BRONFMAN, Montreal
 LEE M. FRIEDMAN, Boston
 JAMES MARSHALL, New York
 SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN, New York
 PHILIP SLOMOVITZ, Detroit
 MICHAEL A. STAVITSKY, Newark
 LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York

TRUSTEES

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

PHILIP W. AMRAM, Washington
 JUDGE BENJAMIN LENCHER, Pittsburgh
 JUDGE THEODORE LEVIN, Detroit
 PHILIP W. LOWN, Auburn, Maine
 JOSEPH MEYERHOFF, Baltimore
 LOUIS M. RABINOWITZ, New York
 MORTON H. WILNER, Washington

For election as a trustee for a three-year term, we recommend:

MRS. MAX L. MARGOLIS

Respectfully submitted,
 SOL SATINSKY, *Chairman*
 JOSEPH FIRST
 JACOB C. GUTMAN
 FRANK J. RUBENSTEIN
 LESSER ZUSSMAN, *Secretary*

The report of the Nominating Committee was adopted unanimously. Mr. Edwin Wolf, 2nd, assumed the Presidency after a brief speech of acceptance.

Mr. Robert D. Abrahams, author of three JPS books for the young adult, presented a provocative paper on "Books for Young Jewish Readers." The paper created much discussion.

The membership meeting was adjourned at five-thirty in the afternoon.

At seven o'clock in the evening, the Society held its sixty-sixth annual dinner

in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. In attendance were more than two hundred members and friends of the Society, with Chief Justice Horace Stern as chairman.

The program consisted of tributes to Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, former Chairman of the Publication Committee; Judge Louis E. Levinthal, former President; and Edwin Wolf, 2nd, newly elected President. Each responded with a stimulating address. In addition, Dr. Israel Goldstein, President of the American Jewish Congress, presented the Stephen S. Wise Award for 1953 to the Society "for its distinguished contribution to the dissemination of Jewish knowledge through the publication and distribution of books of enduring Jewish value."

The dinner was concluded at ten o'clock in the evening.

Respectfully submitted,
LESSER ZUSSMAN, Secretary

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 1953

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

In every annual report that I have been privileged to submit since 1949, when I became your president, I have had occasion to discuss the urgent financial problems confronting our organization, and to stress the inescapable fact that without adequate capital funds the Society cannot be expected to continue to maintain its high cultural and literary standards. Although we are far from being affluent today, a cursory examination of the figures in the Treasurer's Report will reveal that we are beginning to achieve some degree of financial stability. This amelioration of our fiscal condition, I venture to suggest, has made possible the significant improvement and expansion of our publication program in recent years.

Publication Program

For 1953:

The first title, published in January of 1953, was *The Life and Thought of Franz Rosenzweig*, by Nahum N. Glatzer, co-published with Schocken Books, Inc. An initial edition of 1,500 volumes was exhausted by early summer, and a second printing of 1,185 volumes was ordered. A total of 2,019 volumes were distributed during the year.

The second title, also published in January, was *A Treasury of Jewish Letters*, in two volumes, by Franz Kobler, co-published with the East and West Library of London. A first printing of 2,000 sets was sold out by October, so that a second printing of 960 sets was ordered. A total of 2,202 sets were distributed during the year.

Also in January, a third book was co-published with Harper and Brothers, entitled *Joel: A Novel of Young America*, by Nora Benjamin Kubie. We published 2,009 volumes, of which 1,507 were distributed during the year.

In April, we published *Israel Between East and West*, by Raphael Patai. Of the first printing of 4,018 volumes, 2,891 were distributed during the year.

Also in April, we published *Early American Jewry, Vol. II*, by Jacob R. Marcus, originally scheduled for 1952. This was our first book subventioned by the Jacob R. Schiff Fund and launched the Jacob R. Schiff Library of Jewish Contributions to American Democracy. We printed 3,500 volumes, and distributed 3,111 during the year.

In May, we published *For the Sake of Heaven*, by Martin Buber, which is a reprint of an earlier edition with a new preface. We printed 1,500 volumes, of which 1,084 were distributed during the year. Also, a trade edition of 1,000 volumes was printed by us for Harper and Brothers.

Also in May, we published *The Spiritual Values of Life*, by Horace Stern. We printed a special edition of 2,000 volumes, of which 696 were distributed during the year.

A third book published in May, although originally scheduled for 1952, was *Don Isaac Abravanel*, by Ben Zion Netanyahu. We printed 3,600 volumes and distributed 2,302 during the year.

May—a banner month—saw a fourth book published. Its title was *The Book of Jonah*, with illustrations by Jacob Steinhardt and calligraphy in Hebrew and English by Franziska Baruch. We printed 6,347 of this artistic book, and distributed 3,016 during the year.

In October, we published *The Well of Gerar*, by Ruben Rothgiesser. We printed 4,000 volumes and distributed 1,853 before the end of the year.

In January 1954, we published *Of Making Many Books*, by Joshua Bloch, which was scheduled for 1953. We printed 2,000 volumes, and distributed 754 upon publication.

In February 1954, another 1953 publication entitled *Personalities and Events in Jewish History*, by Cecil Roth, came off the press. We printed 5,000 volumes and distributed 2,286 upon publication.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, VOL. 55, co-published with the American Jewish Committee, was ready for distribution in March of 1954. An edition of 2,750 volumes was printed for The Society, and 2,264 were distributed upon publication.

For 1954:

Our list for 1954 emphasizes books on American Jewish history and biography, since this year marks American Jewry's Tercentenary. Ten books are scheduled, of which five will be subventioned by the Jacob R. Schiff Fund and will be added to the Jacob R. Schiff Library of Jewish Contributions to American Democracy. It is our hope that these books will play an important part in the celebration of the Tercentenary.

The five books to be included in the Jacob R. Schiff Library are as follows:

Myer Myers, Goldsmith, by Jeanette W. Rosenbaum, a beautifully illustrated monograph on the life and works of a Jewish colonial craftsman, who made sacred objects for synagogues and churches, as well as many objects of art for private individuals.

The Commodore: The Adventurous Life of Uriah P. Levy, by Robert D. Abrahams, a novel intended for young people.

A Jewish Tourist's Guide to the United States, by Bernard Postal and Lionel Koppman, lists, and in many cases illustrates, the numerous points of Jewish interest in the various parts of the United States.

Incidents of Travel and Adventure in the Far West, by S. N. Carvalho, with an introduction by Bertram W. Korn, is an interesting account of the expedition to the Far West made in 1853 by General John C. Fremont.

For Zion's Sake, by Norman Bentwich, a biography of Judah L. Magnes, native American Jewish spiritual, cultural, and communal leader, a towering figure first in the United States and later in Palestine.

In addition, the following five books are planned for publication in 1954:

Awakened, a novel by Margaret Abrams, is largely autobiographical, telling an interesting story with religious overtones in the setting of a small American town.

The Responsa Literature, by Solomon B. Freehof, reveals how social and economic problems were solved when learned men and sometimes whole communities turned to the foremost authorities in Jewish life for advice in the application of Jewish law to the conditions and problems facing them.

On Jewish Law and Lore, by Louis Ginzberg, contains a selection of memorable essays which, though previously published, have not been readily available. It will have an introduction by Eli Ginzberg, the distinguished son of the sainted and beloved author.

Harvest of Hate, by Leon Poliakov (translated from the French), is being co-published with the Syracuse University Press. The book uses primary source material in documenting the Nazi program for the extermination of the Jews of Europe.

AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, Volume 56, edited by Morris Fine and co-published with the American Jewish Committee, will feature three special historical essays commemorating the Tercentenary. In addition, it will include reviews of the major events of the year in American and overseas Jewish life, as well as the reference features which have appeared in previous volumes.

Reprints

During 1953, we reprinted seven of our prior publications as follows: 34,500 copies of the Bible, making a total of 550,500 in print; 10,500 of *Pathways Through the Bible*, by Mortimer J. Cohen, making a total of 75,500 in print; 5,400 of *A History of the Jews*, by Solomon Grayzel, making a total of 29,750 in print; 2,200 of *A Century of Jewish Life*, by Ismar Elbogen, making a total of 11,200 in print; 2,500 of *History of the Jews*, by Margolis and Marx, making an estimated total of 36,300 in print (estimated, because exact records for the early years are not available).

Publication Distribution

We distributed a total of 84,071 books during 1953, of which 34,332 were selected by our members; 46,523 were sold to members and the trade; and 3,216 were distributed as free books. This compares with a total of 82,086 in 1952, of which 31,455 were selected by members, 48,166 sold, and 2,465 distributed free.

Our Bible sales continue to increase, with 26,430 sold in 1953, compared with 25,536 in 1952 and 23,319 in 1951. *Pathways Through the Bible*, our best seller next to the Bible, is also showing steady increase. We sold 9,606 volumes in 1953 compared with 8,581 in 1952 and 7,095 in 1951.

Publication Committee

The distinguished members of our Publication Committee, under the capable and efficient chairmanship of Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, have continued to volunteer their valuable time in reading manuscripts and in studying projects submitted to them for their consideration. Our devoted and gifted Editor, Dr. Solomon Grayzel, has examined more than sixty-five manuscripts and projects submitted to him during 1953.

Board of Trustees and Officers

To the active members of the Board of Trustees and to my fellow-officers, I extend my thanks for their helpful cooperation. I am confident that they will continue to give to my successor their devoted support and assistance. To Mr. Lesser Zussman, our Executive Secretary, I am particularly grateful for his tireless labors on behalf of the Society, and especially for his faithful compliance with the declared policies of our governing bodies. I am sure that our Executive Secretary will be of inestimable value to my successor, as he has been to me.

Jewish Book Council

The Jewish Book Council of America, sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board, continues to receive our very active cooperation. Our Editor, Dr. Grayzel, continues as the editor of *In Jewish Bookland*, and Dr. Mortimer J. Cohen, a valuable member of our Publication Committee, still served (in 1953) as editor of the *Jewish Book Annual*.

The JPS and the Tercentenary Committee

One of the most important projects of the National American Jewish Tercentenary Committee is the preparation of a ten-volume documentary history of the Jews of the United States. A special coordinating committee has been created to provide administrative supervision for the preparation of this history. Members of the committee represent the American Jewish Tercentenary, the American Jewish Historical Society, and The Jewish Publication Society of America. The documentary history is under the direction of Dr. Salo W. Baron, an outstanding member of our Publication Committee, as well as one of our most popular and scholarly authors, who is also the President of the Historical Society and the Chairman of the Tercentenary Committee on Research and Publications. It is hoped that the ten volumes now being planned will present all the significant documents in American Jewish history, and will provide ample source material for historical volumes recounting the full participation of Jews in American life in all its aspects. The relationship of this project to our own, the Jacob R. Schiff Library of Jewish Contributions to American Democracy, is obvious.

Public Relations and Public Recognition

We are grateful to the Anglo-Jewish, the Yiddish, and the Hebrew press throughout the world for their generous reviews of our publications and for their complimentary appraisal of our achievements. While in Israel and in England last summer, I was delighted to note in what high regard the Society is held among Jewish cultural and spiritual leaders in those countries.

We are particularly appreciative of the signal honor paid the Society on March 17, 1954, when the American Jewish Congress announced that our organization had been chosen as the recipient of the 1953 Stephen S. Wise Award for Outstanding Service to Jewish Culture and Education. In commenting on this award, *Congress Weekly* said in an editorial:

For sixty-five years, the Jewish Publication Society of America has been making a consistent and enduring contribution to the dissemination of Jewish knowledge and culture through the publication in the English language of books of Jewish interest. Scores of significant volumes of Jewish scholarship probably would never have been made available had it not been for the JPS. The award to The Society is well-merited recognition for a highly creative and significant contribution to American Jewry, a service which, because it has been made without fanfare and the blare of trumpets, has not always been adequately appreciated.

We are grateful for the compliment paid to the Society by the distinguished committee headed by Mr. James N. Rosenberg, which made the selection, and by the organization, the American Jewish Congress, headed by Dr. Israel Goldstein, which made the award. We are mindful of our obligation to continue to deserve the esteem of all the constructive forces in American Jewish life.

Membership Statistics

Our membership in 1953 declined slightly from 1952, with 8,343 as compared with 8,743. Of the 8,343 members enrolled, 1,592 were new and 6,751 were renewals. As to classifications of membership, 4,239 were enrolled at \$5.00; 3,076 at \$11.25; 357 at \$22.50; and 671 at \$25.00 and higher.

It is obvious that the most pressing problem confronting the Society is how to increase our total enrollment, how to retain all our present members, and how to acquire as many new members as possible.

Despite the oft-repeated, pessimistic view that the clientele of Jewish book-dealers consists chiefly of so-called "Jewish professionals," a term applied to rabbis, educators, writers, and lecturers—a group comprising only about two thousand potential customers—the Society has demonstrated time and time again that there is an appreciable market for books of Jewish interest in English among educated American Jews who have no special professional interests whatsoever. I am confident that as we improve the quality of our wares, and as we make the Society more generally known, our enrollment will steadily and substantially increase.

During the year we launched a modest advertising campaign in a limited number of periodicals. It is too early to appraise the value of this effort.

JPS Bookmark

In February, 1954, the first issue of the *JPS Bookmark* appeared. This is intended to be a bimonthly bulletin, enabling the Society to keep in closer touch with its members by informing them of its plans and achievements. We also hope to publish in the *Bookmark* brief articles of literary interest to our members.

Community Welfare Funds

The most effective method of bringing home to the Jewish population of the United States the spiritual values of the Society, of making intelligent Jews throughout our country aware of the advantages to themselves of membership in our organization, and at the same time of securing needed financial support for its operation, is by applying for allocations from Jewish Community Welfare Funds.

Early in 1953, our representatives appeared before the Large City Budgeting Conference (LCBC) and presented our case for subventions from Federations and Welfare Funds. The LCBC response was encouraging, as was also the reaction of the leadership of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. We thereupon filed our requests with the local community funds, and I am pleased to report that we received affirmative replies during 1953 from thirty communities, with indications from others that our applications would receive favorable consideration in 1954. Although we only obtained \$4,984.41 from this source in 1953, the initial response is reassuring.

It should be noted that we have no desire or intention to solicit excessive grants from the organized communities, already burdened as they are with so many pressing appeals for funds. We do, however, require a minimum of \$40,000 as an annual subvention to bridge the gap between our normal income and our essential expenditures. We confidently anticipate that as more and more of our communities become aware of our aims and our activities, their allocations to the Society will aggregate the amount we require. But this is not all. As a by-product of these community grants, more and more individuals will enroll as members of the Society and receive our publications. Indeed, the educational effect of the

Society's appeal to the communities is no less significant than the financial aid we hope to obtain.

Necrology

During the past year the Society has suffered serious losses among its co-workers and friends:

Miss Helena Frank (1872-1953), not of the Jewish faith, was a friend of the Society for many years. She compiled and translated two of our publications: *Stories and Pictures*, by J. L. Peretz, in 1906; and *Yiddish Tales*, by various authors, including Peretz, Sholom Aleichem, and others, in 1912. For this purpose she learned Yiddish, and in recent years she undertook the study of Hebrew.

Louis Ginzberg (1873-1953), the foremost Jewish scholar of his generation in the United States, was a member of the Jewish Classics Committee from 1916 to 1945. He joined our group of distinguished authors with his monumental work, *The Legends of the Jews*, universally recognized as the most scholarly work ever produced by the Society. Its seven volumes appeared between 1909 and 1938. In 1928 we published his collection of essays: *Students, Scholars and Saints*. Shortly before his passing we undertook to publish another collection of his scholarly essays. It will appear within the next few months, under the title of *On Jewish Law and Lore*.

Solomon Goldman (1893-1953), outstanding rabbi and communal leader, was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1938 to 1949 and of the Publication Committee for many years. To its publications he contributed *The Book of Books*, in 1948, and its sequel, *In the Beginning*, in 1949.

Max Grunwald (1871-1953), noted rabbi and folklorist and historian, spent his declining years in Israel as a refugee from Nazism. He prepared for us *The History of the Jews in Vienna* in 1936.

Alexander Marx (1878-1953), outstanding scholar and bibliophile, served as a member of the Publication Committee since 1916 and as Chairman of our Jewish Classics Committee since 1943. With the late Max L. Margolis he prepared the first one-volume history of the Jews in the English language, *History of the Jewish People*, which was published in 1927. In 1947 we published his collection of biographies under the title: *Essays in Jewish Biography*.

The Society deeply mourns the loss of each of these devoted friends and valued co-workers. Their books will be their memorial, and through them future generations will be blessed.

Five Years in Review

In submitting this, my fifth and last report as your President, permit me to express my profound gratitude for the privilege you have given me to serve the cause of Jewish culture through the Society during the past five years. These have been challenging and critical years for our organization. For me, they have been exciting and, for the most part, gratifying years.

At the end of 1948 our organization was burdened with a current indebtedness of \$123,186.30, in addition to a mortgage of \$28,000 on our building. The operating deficit for that year alone amounted to \$23,496.81. With the cooperation of all my fellow officers, particularly of Mr. Sol Satinsky, who assumed the treasuryship of the Society at that time, we embarked upon an energetic program to overcome our financial difficulties. I am happy to be able to report that the total of our current obligations at the end of 1953 has been reduced to \$44,527.84, our mortgage to only \$10,500, and that for the past three years we have been operating without incurring any deficit whatsoever. These results have been made possible by generous

gifts, by the sale of the equipment of the Hebrew Press, and by careful economy in our expenditures.

Our total income for the five-year period amounted to \$1,102,939.11, exclusive of the initial grant of \$150,000 from the Jacob R. Schiff Estate. You will recall that as President of the Society I was privileged to serve first with General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Dr. Harry N. Wright, Presidents respectively of Columbia University and the City College of New York, and more recently with Dr. Grayson Kirk and Dr. Buell Gallagher, the present heads of those educational institutions, as a member of the committee charged with the duty of allocating the residue of the Jacob R. Schiff Estate to charitable and educational institutions. You know that we have set up a special fund for the subvention of the Schiff Library of Jewish Contributions to American Democracy. I am happy to be able to announce that an additional terminal grant of \$100,000, making a total of \$250,000, will be available for this purpose.

The Society has, thank God, made a satisfactory physical recovery during these recent years. But you will recall that our traditional synagogue prayer for the sick entreats the Almighty to send a *Refuat Ha- nefesh* as well as a *Refuat Ha-goof*, a healing of the soul as well as a healing of the body. When we contemplate that our membership at the end of 1953 was only 8,343, and that during the period under review we distributed a total of only 494,055 books, of which 111,845 were copies of our Bible, we must realize that The Society has not yet been blessed with a *Refuat Ha- nefesh*.

With the full cooperation of the affirmative elements of American Jewry, our enrollment should be at least five times what it is today, and our book distribution should be multiplied tenfold. This is not fantastic, wishful thinking. I believe it is within the range of our realistic potentialities. For under the impact of the annihilation of six millions of our brothers and sisters in Europe—the most frightful tragedy in our tragic history—the Jewish consciousness of our people here, particularly that of our youth, has been powerfully aroused in recent years. Then, too, that miracle of redemption, the realization in our day of the dream of the rebirth of *Medinat Yisrael*—of the State of Israel—has had a potent influence on our people in this country. Furthermore, all of us anticipate that the observance of the 300th anniversary of Jewish settlement in North America will intensify our Jewish loyalties and stimulate a dignified pride in our Jewish heritage. We have every right to hope, to expect, that the Tercentenary we celebrate this year will be followed a hundred years from now by a Quadracentenary to be commemorated in dignity and with honor by our descendants in this country, and that in due course it will be followed by a Quincentenary to be similarly celebrated by their descendants, and so on forevermore.

But let us not be too sure that Jewish survival will be automatic and spontaneous. I have long been firmly convinced that if there be any way of guaranteeing the preservation of Jewish identity and Jewish creativity, it can only be by transmitting our authentic traditions and ideals to our children and children's children. Cecil Roth is not the only historian to have made the categorical statement that "it has never happened that any body of Jews imbued with their ancestral culture has withered away." It is axiomatic that Jewish education is the only conceivable assurance of Jewish survival. The JPS plays a vital role in the realm of Jewish education and culture, because books, instructive and inspirational books, of Jewish interest in the English language, are invaluable if we are to preserve and hand down to future generations the glorious heritage we have received from our ancestors.

Permit me to make but one suggestion as to how the Society might well improve the execution of its program. Instead of waiting for authors to submit their manuscripts on topics selected by themselves, which may or may not be of primary importance, we should as frequently as possible invite writers to produce volumes which our Publication Committee considers to be needed and valuable. The Society

should take the initiative in having books written and translated in essential fields. Indeed, some of our most notable publications during the sixty-six years of our Society's existence have been so projected. We should adopt this as our customary method of operation in the future.

Ours is an American and also a Jewish organization. It is of course only by chance that this meeting is being held on "I Am An American Day," a day set aside to stress the importance of American citizenship. But I venture to suggest that there is a deep symbolism in this coincidence. As American citizens we have a special obligation to enrich the spiritual and cultural treasury of our country. The most precious gift we as a Jewish organization can contribute to American civilization is a collection of books that will convey to cultured and intelligent readers, of all creeds and national origins, the unique quality of our religious and intellectual inheritance. And as Jews we have a parallel responsibility to contribute to that vast and precious storehouse we share in common with our fellow-Jews everywhere. Many of our books should be exported and widely disseminated in Canada, in Great Britain, and in other countries where English is read. Some of our books should be translated into other languages, particularly into Hebrew, for the use of readers who are not familiar with our vernacular. Similarly, the best of present-day Hebrew literature in the State of Israel is worthy of translation into English, and would be welcomed by discriminating Americans, non-Jews as well as Jews.

I have the hope that the JPS, as the recognized communal publisher for American Jewry, is destined to assume even greater importance in creating and transmitting Jewish values than it ever enjoyed in the past. But in the final analysis, this hope of mine can be realized only if American Jews are willing to avail themselves of the Society's publications. It is obvious that the vigor of the Society depends upon the vitality of American Jewry. All our educational and religious forces and institutions—the synagogues, seminaries and schools, the rabbis, educators and teachers—must recognize their need of the JPS, as the JPS must recognize its dependence upon them. As their effectiveness grows, our ability to serve will increase. Working together, we may confidently look forward to a *Refuah Shleimah*—a complete recovery—not only of The Jewish Publication Society, but of all American Jewish life, speedily and in our own days.

Respectfully submitted,
LOUIS E. LEVINTHAL, *President*