

ABOUT

Saul Hayes

# YOUR ATTENTION

# 74 CONFIDENTIAL

FROM

Jan. 22nd, 1947,

## 1. Radio Program.

The National Executive Director conferred with the head of the Talks Department of the C.B.C. in Toronto on several matters in regard to our radio program. Ways of improving the Citizens' Forum were discussed; we were particularly concerned that more time be given for discussion of those topics in which we are interested and to have the subjects traversed more thoroughly. We discussed also the possibility of having the program of "Eternal Light" which is sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary, carried over the C.B.C. The subject is one not coming directly within the jurisdiction of the Talks Department as this department is not handling religious programs, and the time allotted for religious programs is limited and already taken up. We advanced the view that the "Eternal Light" program is rather a cultural one being the interpretation of Jewish cultural values and it differs from strictly religious broadcasts. We were promised that our request in this direction will be given serious consideration. There is now a new series called, "Letter to Ottawa" in connection with Citizenship Education Programs; we discussed how our work may fit into this series. We also took up special broadcast series of discussions or studies on meaning of Canadian democracy and the threats to it of racism and race hatred.

## 2. National Committee on Refugees.

On January 20th we attended a meeting of the executive of the National Committee on Refugees which was held in Toronto under the chairmanship of Senator C. Wilson; present were also, Mr. B.K. Sandwell, Canen Judd, M.J. Coldwell, Mr. Ebon Gray, K.C. The principal subject discussed: Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in handling the movement of relatives to Canada from DP camps, acting as trustee for the Intergovernmental Committee for the funds which the Committee will have to use in Canada on behalf of the DP's who will be arriving in Canada and problems of publicity and immigration matters. The distinction was drawn between publicity and understanding of the refugee problem; while there is wide attention being given to problems affecting DP's and refugees, there seems to be not enough understanding of the true nature of the problem in many of the Canadian newspapers which do not grasp all implications involved; some confuse the DP's problem as being an exclusively Jewish one and conclusions drawn as to Canadian responsibility to the solution of the problem are often confused. The Committee discussed representation to be made with the Government on immigration problems and particularly representations with the Prime Minister. Financial matters were also discussed.

## 3. "History of the Jews in Canada" Evokes Interest in Government Circles.

We received from high Government officials several expressions of appreciation on the book, "History of the Jews in Canada" by B.G. Sack which was published by us. Copies of the book were sent to members of the Federal and Provincial Government and to various libraries, universities, etc. Mr. Jas. A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce states: "I have read this new venture into Canadian history with great interest. Mr. Sack's record makes very clear the increasingly significant part played by Jewish men and women in the development of Canada, with special reference to the early days of Montreal, Quebec and Three Rivers. His account

National Headquarters: CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS  
1121 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal; Tel. PLateau 6891

shows how closely identified the Canadian Jewish Community has been with the struggle for our great political and constitutional liberties. It will be useful as well to see in permanent form the story of the Jewish people who helped in the building of Western Canada in general and cities like Edmonton in particular". Mr. J.E. Duggan, Registrar of Canadian Citizenship of Department of the Secretary of State writes: "I find it most interesting and it is the first time that I have seen any literature which purported to give a comprehensive history of the Jews in Canada". Mr. R.G. Robertson expressed the appreciation of the Prime Minister for the book: "In view of the present pressure of his engagements on the eve of the opening of Parliament Mr. King doubts if he will be able to find time for an immediate perusal of the book. He wishes to say, however, that he looks forward to reading of its pages as from time to time a favourable opportunity presents itself".

#### 4. Discrimination Case in Toronto.

Our attention has been drawn to a discrimination case which occurred in Toronto against a Jewish girl who was reported to have been banned from skating at the Icelandia skating rink. The United Electrical Workers Union issued a statement asking for a boycott of the skating rink until the policy is changed. The statement referred to the fact that this is the second time that the proprietors have banned citizens; first they barred from the rink a citizen because he was a Negro and now a young Jewish girl. The Toronto Daily Star quoted the director of the Southern Ontario region of the B'nai B'rith to the effect that an unofficial boycott of the rink had been in effect since a young Negro was barred from skating there in November, 1945. The Globe and Mail quotes further opinions of legal experts that there is no law now under which action can be taken for the barring of persons on racial grounds. The Racial Discrimination Act in Ontario does not apply in a case such as the rink situation but deals only with the display or publishing of discriminatory information. Demonstration and picketing took place outside the rink. The Joint Public Relations and the Youth Division in Toronto are active in the case.

#### 5. Supplies Received in Polish Cities.

The Central Committee of Polish Jews in Warsaw acknowledged receipt of supplies which were sent to Pabianice at Czenstochowa.

#### 6. Plenary Session.

In an analysis which was made by our Research Bureau on the number of Plenary Session delegates to which each region should be entitled the recommendation was made that the Central Region be entitled to 149 delegates, the Eastern Region to 146 delegates and the Western Region to 89 delegates. The recommendation is likely to be approved by the National Executive. Each region is to decide as to the number of delegates which will be allotted to the communities comprising the region.

#### 7. Western Remittances.

\$2,942 was received by our Western office from the Moose Jaw community; Moose Jaw was visited by Rabbi S. Frank and Mr. B. Sheps.

#### 8. Mo'ess Chittin Appeal.

The Central People's Relief Committee in Montreal issued a campaign folder in Yiddish and in English for the Mo'ess Chittin Appeal.