

**YOUR ATTENTION**# 93 CONFIDENTIAL

Feb. 19th, 1947.

1. Immigration.

A meeting is being arranged with representatives of the men's clothing industry, dress manufacturers, cloak and suit industries and I.L.G.W.U. to discuss representations to be made to the Government for admittance of immigrants capable of tailoring in the men's and ladies' wear industries. There is a serious shortage of skilled craftsmen in these industries and figures prove that there are at present 400 to 500 less craftsmen in the cloak and suit industry in Toronto alone than there were in 1939. A similar situation exists in Montreal. The delegation of the Canadian Jewish Congress which saw the Prime Minister on February 7th brought up the entire question of the need in the needle trade industries. The meeting which is being arranged will be in a form of a preliminary discussion which will result in a recommendation for action. Arrangements will then be made for a delegation to see the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Immigration. Plans in this direction are co-ordinated with the Toronto cloak manufacturers.

We submitted a recapitulation of the salient points of the representations which we made to the Prime Minister on February 7th to the members of the Cabinet who were present at the conference with Mr. Mackenzie King: Messrs. J.J. McCann (National Revenue), J.A. Mackinnon (Trade and Commerce), Ernest Bertrand (Postmaster General), Paul Martin (Health and Welfare), Louis S. St. Laurent (External Affairs), J.L. Ilsley, (Justice), and J. A. Glen (Mines and Resources). We urged to reconsider the Order-in-Council admitting relatives by way of adding new categories, to renew the permit granting admission to 1,000 orphaned Jewish children and to extend their age limit to 21, and to make sure that persons experienced in the needle trade industries be permitted to enter into Canada.

The national executive director is meeting today with the director of the Immigration Branch in Ottawa on immigration problems.

2. Police Board in Toronto Accepts Amendment to Licence Bylaws.

Our Central Region organized a delegation to the Police Commissioners in Toronto in support of resolution adopted by the City Council to amend the bylaws relating to licencing of public halls and places of amusement to the effect that they be subject to the condition that no discrimination on account of race, creed or colour shall be shown against any members of the public. The delegation was headed by Rabbi A.L. Feinberg and included representatives of Young Women's Christian Association, Student Christian Movement, Home Service Association, Civil Liberties, Union Civil Liberties Association, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Toronto Labour Council, First Baptist Church, United Church General Council, Inter-Church Council, United Church

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Ministerial Association, United Church Young People Christian Social Council of Canada, Provincial Command of Canadian Legion, General Wingate Branch Canadian Legion, Canadian Jewish Congress, Porters Union, American Federation of Labour, Toronto Jewish Youth Council, District Trades and Labour Council, Toronto Catholic Diocese and following individuals, Rev. Lavell Smith, Church of all Nations, Rev. Dr. Judd, Church of England, James Coleman of the Globe and Mail, Rev. Cotor Sisco, United Church General Council, Rev. Finley, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Rev. G. Domm, Inter-Church Council and Rev. Father McGrath of the Catholic Diocese. The Police Board accepted the amendment. Theatres, restaurants, dance halls, skating rinks and other public homes and places of amusement in Toronto henceforth will risk cancellation of operating licences if they deny anyone admittance on the grounds of race, creed, or colour. This policy will be equally applicable to existing licences and to licences issued in future. Virtually, all public gathering places or amusement centers are licenced by the Police Commission and will come within the conditions of the amended bylaw. Hotels, however, are excluded being licenced by the Province. The delegation was introduced by Norman Borins, former assistant Crown attorney.

3. Norwegian Attempts to take D.P's.

Mr. W. Grossman who is now in Stockholm advised us of the developments in Scandinavia in regard to the resettlement of the D.P's in Germany. Three high Norwegian officials left for Germany in order to visit the Jewish Camps. They will select 300 young Jewish men and women who want to settle down in Norway. A Norwegian delegation also visited Poland and made arrangements for 300 Polish Jews to come to Norway; however, difficulties are now being encountered in emigration from Poland.

4. I.R.O.

We wired General Maurice Pope, Canadian delegate to the International Refugee Organization Conference in Geneva, asking him to see Gerhart Riegnar who is representing the World Jewish Congress, in interest of Jewish representations to preparatory commission of I.R.O. General Pope was elected chairman of the Preparatory Commission, however, he declined accepting chairmanship.

5. Bill of Rights.

The National Executive Director is conferring today with Mr. John G. Diefenbaker on the provisions for a Bill of Rights.

6. Books Received in Poland.

Acknowledgment has been received from the Jewish Community in Lodz of 3 cases of books which we sent a few months ago. Mr. Gryeck of the Jewish Committee in Lodz states in his letter that the books are of great value to the Jews of Lodz and will serve a most useful purpose in the cultural restoration of Polish Jewry. "I express to you our thanks and appreciation for the splendid gift which you sent us and for all you did for the remnants of Polish Jewry. We ask you to continue your useful work and to remember us on further occasions".

7. Eastern Region Dominion Council Meeting.

Mr. M. Garber, K.C., chairman of the Eastern Region, convened the Dominion Council for Tuesday, March 4th. An elections committee for the coming Plenary Session will be appointed at this meeting.

8. Mo'ess Chittin Shabbos in Montreal.

The decision of the Conference of all Jewish organizations which was held in Montreal on February 9th to have Shabbos of February 15th devoted to Mo'ess Chittin was carried out in all synagogues in Montreal. Rabbis and presidents of the synagogues spoke on the Mo'ess Chittin project and appeals were made. The General Secretary addressed various Hebrew Sick Benefit Societies on the Mo'ess Chittin.

9. Saskatoon Remittances.

The amount of \$2,000 was remitted from Saskatoon to our Winnipeg office on account of the 1946-47 campaign.

10. Council of Jewish Women.

The National Executive Director met with Mrs. Harold Lorie, National President of the Canadian Council of Jewish Women, Mrs. B. Robinson, chairman of the Montreal section and Mr. M. A. Solkin of the JIAS discussing cooperation in areas of immigration, settlement and reception work. We informed the Council's representatives that as an over-all co-ordinating body Congress will call on the JIAS and the Council as it did on other occasions and more latterly when the refugees from Spain, Portugal and Tangiers arrived in Canada. Whatever work a women's group has to do we will call on the Council as Congress has in the past recognized the Council's traditional role in these matters and will undoubtedly continue to do so. The Council's representatives expressed their content with this statement of general policy and will be glad to assist whenever and wherever called upon.

11. Public Relations Committees in Western Communities.

As the result of the tour of our Western Region Public Relations Director, Joint Public Relations Committees are being organized in all major Western Centers. He will report to a meeting of the Western Joint Public Relations Committee on February 20th in regard to the needs of the Western Public Relations scene and will forward recommendations for the Western membership on the National Joint Public Relations Committee. The Committee extended an invitation to the Secretary of the Western branch of the Jewish Labour Committee to submit a report of his program in the labour relations field.