

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM

Saul Hayes

99 CONFIDENTIAL

Feb. 27th, 1947.

1. Eastern Region Dominion Council Meeting.

On Tuesday, March 4th, a meeting of the Eastern Region Dominion Council will be held. The main item on the agenda will be the problems of Jewish education, particularly that of Jewish Teachers' Seminary and the difficulties which have arisen in dealing with the subject. The agenda includes also the appointment of an elections committee to the Plenary Session, public relations work, immigration problems and reports of committees.

2. Protest to the "Gazette" in Montreal Against Articles on Adrian Arcand.

Mr. Jos. H. Fine, chairman of the Joint Public Relations Committee, addressed a letter to the chief-editor of the Montreal Gazette protesting against the publication of the series of articles on Adrien Arcand. The letter stated: "What the Gazette has done by its quotations from Arcand's anti-semitic utterances and its references to his romantic calling of artist and his expostulations that he is all for the British Empire is a direct play to Mr. Arcand's advantage. I am sure that the Gazette can use more cogent and effective methods of attacking and exposing fascism and other various ideologies than by glamourizing their leaders. The Gazette might have rendered a public service by telling its readers who Arcand is; how he was financed by Mussolini; how he was the Canadian agent of the nazi propoganda machine. Moreover, the author of the articles should have exposed Arcand's activities which led to his internment, namely, his fight against the British Empire and democracy and his desires to bring about a Fascist dictatorship. To stress the anti-semitism of Arcand is to ignore his real program namely an onslaught against democracy and an avowed attempt to introduce a militaristic fascist dictatorship so as to destroy Canadian and British concepts of liberty, democracy and decency."

The matter will also be dealt with by the Joint Public Relations Committee of the Eastern Region which meets tonight.

3. Winnipeg School Board on Distribution of New Testament in Schools.

The Winnipeg School Board approved of the distribution by the Gideon Society, of copies of the New Testament in the Winnipeg public schools; the only restriction being that post-cards will be sent to the parents previous to the distribution and copies would not be given to the children unless the parents have given their consent. The resolution was passed against the opposition of labour members of the School Board. The matter is on the agenda of our Western Public Relations Committee.

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4. Jews in Czechoslovakia.

A recent report about the situation of the Jews in Czechoslovakia states that restitution to Jews whom the Germans robbed has made very limited headway there. It was estimated that possibly 1/3 of the pre-war Bohemian and Moravian Jews have been registered as of the German mother tongue in the census of 1930. Such persons cannot recover agricultural property and they are challenged as alleged "Germanizers" or as anti-social when they try to recover other types of property. Approximately 1/3 of the Jews of Bohemia and Moravia registered in 1930 as Jews of Jewish nationality. It has been common for the National Committees in Czechoslovakia to try to establish such persons also as "Germanizers"; witnesses would testify to an unlikely proposition, for example, such as that a Jew tried to get them to vote for the anti-Semitic Henlein party or would testify that the Jew in question belonged to a German sport club or wrote letters in German. Of the 120,000 Jews who resided in Bohemia and Moravia before the war, about 11,500 now are here and the majority of them want to leave.

5. French Public Relations.

A statement of principles and aims of the proposed Committee of French Canadians is being drafted to formalize the program of the Committee. We have been advised by our French contact men that the dates have been set for the publication of the several pamphlets which are intended to be issued by the Committee. Plans have also been advanced to have a dinner for the French members of the Committee and their friends.

6. Addition to Archives.

We received very rare photos of Selim Franklin who was the first Jew in Canada to sit in Parliament in Victoria, B.C. in 1860. (An earlier election of a Jew, Ezekiel Hart, to the Parliament in 1807 was annulled and he never sat). We also received a photo of his brother, Lumley Franklin, who was supposedly the first Jewish mayor in Canada; also, valuable information on Morris Moss who was Government Indian Agent and explorer in the Pacific coast in the 1860's.

7. Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

A meeting has been convened in Montreal of the principals of all Jewish educational institutions to organize a children's manifestation in commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In previous years all Jewish schools joined in such manifestation.