

ABOUT Inter-Office Information

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM Saul Hayes

April 22nd, 1947.

No. 136 CONFIDENTIAL1. Congress Bulletin Exempted from Sales Tax

Our financial department investigated the possibility of our getting an exemption on various printings from sales tax, federal and provincial. We conferred on April 18th in Ottawa with Mr. A.F. MacMillan, Chief, Excise Tax Administration Branch, Department of National Revenue, and his two assistants. The conferences took over an hour and we traversed every aspect of the issue. Publication houses enjoy special privileges which we could not get in view of the very limited number of books and pamphlets which we published for sale purposes and because we have no printing establishment. We shall, however, enjoy an exemption from federal sales tax on the Congress Bulletin, which will be regarded as a newspaper; it would be impossible to classify the Bulletin as a magazine; the exemption from the sales tax is therefore on the sale or charge made by the printer, but the paper and ink used are taxable. The cuts and engravings supplied by us to the printers are subject to the sales tax of 8%. We investigated also the possibility of an exemption on the basis that charitable funds enjoy such privileges which proved however to be not workable as no charitable funds were ever exempted from sales tax. The same applies to the religious calendar which we used to issue for Jewish servicemen and which could not be classified under the regulation of Schedule III of the special War Revenue Act which would permit an exemption.

We discussed on April 19th in Montreal with the Sales Tax Department of the Provincial Government our exemption from provincial sales tax and satisfactory arrangements have been arrived at.

2. Toronto Labour Conference to Combat Racial Discrimination

A representative of ours was present as observer at a meeting of the Toronto Labour Conference to combat racial discrimination which was held on April 15th. The meeting was attended by 125 accredited delegates and 40 observers. Co-chairmen were: Mr. Ford Brand of the Trades and Labour Congress and Mr. Murray Cottrel, of the Canadian Congress of Labour. The meeting was convened with the active participation of the Jewish Labour Committee. On the platform sat representatives of the National Offices of the Trades and Labour Congress, the Canadian Congress of Labour, the I.L.G.W.U., Jewish Labour Committee and observers from Church of England and the Negro church congregations. The atmosphere during the latter part of the meeting was disturbed by inter-factional dispute between the two major political elements of the labour movement, one of whom constantly challenged the chair on the recommendation of the resolutions and nominations committees. This left much to be desired from the point of view of the harmony of a conference for tolerance. The recommendations of the two above named committees, however, were upheld. The following resolutions were adopted: a) A permanent committee

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

to be established to foster educational work against racial discrimination among members of the labour movement; b) To raise and spend funds for the above purpose; c) To encourage work amongst other groups for the same purpose. The permanent Labour Committee to combat racial discrimination was named. This committee is to establish an advisory board for purpose of consultation and collaboration in this work which will consist of representatives from non-labour groups interested in the cause. The committee will bear the name: "Citizen's Committee."

3. United States Halts Entry to D.P. Camps

The U.S. Army in the American zone of Germany barred new applicants, meaning Jewish persons from Poland, from admission to displaced persons camps in the United States zone beginning April 21st. The decision reversed the previous U.S. Policy of making the zone a haven for persecuted persons. It was ordered by the State Department and it is being interpreted as a concession to the British desire to limit immigration pressure into Palestine. The border of the zone will not be closed to infiltrates but new arrivals will receive no further care by the United States from its funds. Only in cases of hardship, due to illness or unemployment, exceptional admittance to camps will still be possible with the approval of the European Command. A similar measure had been in effect in the British Zone since last July. An announcement of the European Command explained that the aim of the new regulation was to stabilize and reduce the numbers of D.P.'s so that the problem would be within the capacity of the International Refugees Organization when it took over from the UNRRA, July 1st. As of March 15th, there were 353,696 Jewish D.P. camps in Germany according to Army figures, of whom 124,453 were living in D.P. camps and the rest outside.

Maj. Gen. Lowell, W. Rooks, director general of UNRRA, stated that unless funds are made available within the next 80 days to the International Refugee Organization, about 750,000 displaced persons will be in an extremely difficult situation after June 30th when the UNRRA closes its operations in Europe. The yearly budget in the I.R.O. is estimated up to \$300,000,000 if the present number of D.P.'s does not decrease.

4. Committee on Education of Jewish Children in Outremont

The committee met on April 21st. A report on the conference with the provincial Secretary was given. Our office is in constant communication with experts and practitioners in the field in a special effort to obtain all required information from the legislative, legal and research point of view. The reports we received from our contact men prove to be very valuable. The committee will convene again to decide on the program on the parents meeting which was originally planned for April 24th and to decide as to whether the date should not be postponed for a few days in order to be in possession of more concrete data as to all implications involved.

5. Immigration

A British United Press dispatch from Frankfurt indicated that Canada has approved of an "experiment" to bring in a group of a hundred young single women from the D.P. camps in Germany to work in mills. The project is to be a

joint one of the Inter-Governmental Committee and Mr. Dionne, member of the Canadian Parliament and owner of the Dionne spinning mills at St. George de Beauce, Quebec. Mr. Dionne obtained permission from Canadian government to come to Germany and recruit an experimental group of 100 young single women to work in his mills. The announcement stressed that the girls all unmarried and between the ages of 16-30 "will be of Catholic faith since St. George de Beauce is almost entirely Catholic." Until now, no displaced persons from Germany have been allowed to go to Canada, unless they have close relatives here. A report in the "Star" quoted immigration officials in Ottawa to the effect that they were aware of the fact that Dionne was overseas seeking help for his mills. However, he will still have to conform to the Immigration Act. No special arrangements have been made, stated the "Star", and the movement of the girls to Canada is an isolated one.

6. Anglo-Jewish Year Book

At the request of Mr. Albert M. Hyamson, editor of the Anglo-Jewish Year Book, which appears in London, we are compiling information on Canadian Jewish communities which will be included in the Year Book.

7. Plenary Session

A letter is going out to the entire community indicating the importance of the forthcoming Plenary Session. The letter reads as follows: "We are preparing for the Seventh Plenary Session and I can state that it will be one of the most momentous gatherings of Canadian Jewry in all our history. It comes at a time when a number of important policy questions of very far reaching importance will have to be answered decisively. As I see it now the Plenary Session will have a minimum of reporting or of dramatic fanfare and a maximum of solid business. It will be of the greatest importance that the assembly be completely representative of all communities and of all sections. The problems truly of life and death which face the Jewish people in many parts of the world will require the best brains which the community possesses for their solution. May I urge you in all earnestness to give this matter your attention. If it is at all possible for you to be present at the sessions which will be held in Montreal on June 1st and 2nd at the Mount Royal Hotel, by all means do so. I am certain that the very nature of the subjects which will be discussed and the elevation of tone with which they will certainly be taken up will give you valuable inspiration. Equally important, please make certain that the Jewish group to which you belong is adequately represented at this gathering in accordance with the election regulations laid down by the committee in charge"

8. Visit of Edmund de Rothschild

Edmund de Rothschild will be visiting Winnipeg on May 31st to June 2nd and Vancouver on May 24th to May 28th. He fought in France, Tunisia and Italy with the British Army, and since his discharge has been active with the Central British Fund, major British Agency for Jewish Relief in Europe. A meeting for Mr. Rothschild may be arranged in Winnipeg and Vancouver.