

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM Saul Hayes

No. 145 CONFIDENTIAL

May 5th, 1947.

1). Summary of Decisions of the National Executive Committee Meeting, May 4th, 1947.

A). Tribute to Mr. Garber. The Chairman reported to the meeting that Mr. Michael Garber, K.C., as principal actor in the matter of working for satisfactory arrangements for the education of Jewish children in Outremont had accomplished an extraordinarily important job. The President paid tribute to Mr. Garber for the way he handled an admittedly complex and difficult situation. Loud applause greeted the Chairman's tribute and a resolution was unanimously passed commending Mr. Garber's zeal and talent displayed in this matter and thanking him for his efforts.

B). Plenary Session. The program and arrangements recommended and tentatively approved by the Inner Executive were agreed upon. It was also agreed that an Oneg Shabbath service would be held under our auspices conducted by the National Council of Y.M.H.A.'s.

C). Immigration. The propriety of appearing before the Senate Committee in the light of the present Order-in-Council and the announcement of legislation relaxing our immigration laws was discussed. The decision was to try to obtain a postponement of date, but if this was impossible, to proceed on May 7th. The permit for 1000 children was discussed and it was unanimously approved that the National Director make whatever arrangements were necessary with the Immigration Branch, offering the full guarantee of the Canadian Jewish Congress for reception, placement and public charge liability. The other aspects of immigration were discussed as to how far the change in the regulations affecting relatives will help our case.

D). Youth Division and National Council of YCHA's. The meeting was informed of the problem of youth divisions in each region plus the request of the National Council of Y.M.H.A.'s to have a working agreement with the Congress in the field of youth work. The matter was discussed for some time, but it was felt that no decision be taken at this meeting. A sub-committee was formed to meet with the National President during the week of May 5th so that this matter may be further clarified and if possible, acted upon. The members of the National Executive will during the course of the week receive copies of the memorandum submitted by the National Council of Y.M.H.A.'s.

E). JIAS Agreement. A review of the working arrangements with the JIAS was presented. The new and consolidated agreement was read at the meeting. Certain amendments were suggested which, if agreed upon by the JIAS, will form the basis of the national understanding between the two organizations. The situation in Winnipeg was traversed and it was agreed that in making this arrangement with the

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JIAS, it will be distinctly understood when we inform the Jewish Welfare Fund of Winnipeg that this agreement and arrangement does not in any way countenance the action taken by the JIAS in setting up a new Western office.

F). Teachers Seminars. The meeting was reminded of the Plenary Session resolution and that of the National Dominion Council calling for the creation of one seminary and a subvention of \$25,000 therefore. Memoranda of the Jewish Teachers' Seminary and the Hebrew Teachers' Institute were read to the meeting. Survey of the existing situation was made by several of the members of the Executive. The Western Region Executive and the Eastern Region Dominion Council both had recommendations to make which were read to the meeting. The discussion was limited to the needs of the school year 1946-1947. It appears that the Hebrew Teachers' Institute suffers a deficit of \$6,000 and that of the Jewish Teachers' Seminary \$10,000. There was a majority of opinion that something should be done to subvent these seminaries. However, there were a number of complicating factors both in principle and financial. Moreover, the Central Region felt that it must have an opportunity to discuss the new developments and to report its views. It was agreed that the matter be left to the next meeting of the Executive which should take place May 31st, by which time the Central Region will have studied the matter and presented its views.

G). Festival Recordings. The project to produce records of Jewish Festivals and Sabbath Liturgy was presented. The recommendation for \$3,000 to be approved for this project was unanimously adopted.

H). I.O.I. The matter of the I.O.I. was left to the Inner Executive.

I). Request by HIAS for inclusion as a beneficiary of funds. No decision was taken, but the National Executive Director was instructed to obtain independent reports of the international work accomplished by HIAS.

J). Request by the Labour Zionist Committee for Relief and Rehabilitation for inclusion as beneficiary of our relief funds in the amount of \$25,000. The matter was discussed for considerable length of time as certain matters of principle were maintained by a number of members of the Executive. It was finally agreed that the matter be left in abeyance until after the Plenary Session by which time the President will undertake to discuss matters with the JDC. The Budget Committee met in the morning and another issue of the I.O.I. will report on the decisions taken.

2). Congress Elections in Montreal

462 electors participated in the elections of 85 delegates who are to represent various organizations in Montreal at the Plenary Session. The total number of electors was 603 and the percentage of those participating in the elections was thus over 75%. Elected were 23 delegates of the Labor Zionist group (which included all branches of the JNWA, Pioneer Women and all groups close to the Labor Zionists in Montreal as well as some of the trade unions;) 16 Zionists, including Hadassah and Habonim; 15 of the Fraternal group which included Verbands, Landsmannschaften and Sick Benefit Societies; 7 representing Social and Philanthropic Organizations; 7 of the Jewish Assistance Group; 13 representing Synagogue and Religious Organizations and 4 of the Mizrahi Group.

Each group which participated in the elections had to pay \$5.00-\$10.00 registration fee. The total amount of these fees was \$1100.00.

3). Immigration of Skilled Workers.

The C.J.C. initiated the suggestion that the needle trade make representations to

Ottawa for the admissions of skilled workers. Under our auspices the women's cloak and suit industry, men's and boy's clothing, millinery hats and caps, met to discuss the feasibility of making submissions and the actual content of briefs. Employers and union officers met with us on several occasions. The discussions, letters, conversations, meetings etc. culminated in the conference which was had by employer and union representatives of the industry with Messrs. Mitchell and Glen and their Deputy Ministers on May 2nd, 1947. The submissions were made calling for Government approval to allow in 2000 skilled persons for the men's clothing industry and 500 for the women's industry. The delegation spoke for the entire Canadian industry and was comprised of leaders from the union and the manufacturers from Toronto and Montreal and Norman Genser and Jack Specter, K.C. attorneys. Further to this Mr. Max Enkin, O.B.E., Toronto, arranged for a resolution to be sent from the Retail Merchants Association to the Cabinet Ministers divulging the shortage of tailors and asking for a relaxation of immigration laws to permit their entry.

On May first we arranged for the Millinery Industry to telegraph Messrs. Humphrey Mitchell and J.A. Glen of the Ministeries of Labor and Mines & Resources endorsing the plea of the men's and women's clothing industry of Canada for the entry of skilled workers. The Millinery industry, both employers and Union, have requested the Government to provide entry permits for a number of skilled workers in their industry. We are now negotiating with the Fur Industry for the same general purposes.

4). Condolences on Passing of Henry Monsky.

Henry Monsky, Chairman of the Interim Committee of the A.J. Conference and President of Bnai Brith died suddenly on May 2nd while attending a meeting of the A.J. Conference. The C.J.C. through its President conveyed to the Bnai Brith and the American Jewish Conference the widespread feeling of sorrow which Canadian Jewry experienced on learning of Mr. Monsky's death and referring to his great accomplishments in communal work. Mr. Bronfman also expressed condolences to Mrs. Monsky in a tribute to Mr. Monsky's exceptional record of service to Jewish life.

5). Interview with Dr. Joseph Saine.

Dr. Saine is ^{Armenian} ~~American~~ by birth but due to marriage and convictions, one would call him a French Canadian. He has expressed a great interest in the first war refugees, Armenians, Greeks, Jews who were under disabuses by Turkey, culminating in their forced labor building fortifications in Anatolia. He says discrimination is practiced against these people since the administrative officers of the Immigration Board call them Asiatics. He asks for Congress support of his one man crusade.