

ABOUT

YOUR ATTENTION

Saul Hayes

FROM

No. 156 CONFIDENTIAL

May 20th, 1947.

1. \$52,500 Final Figure of Montreal Mo'ess Chittin

The Montreal Central Peoples' Relief Committee met on May 19th. The final result of the Montreal Mo'ess Chittin is \$52,500 and this amount was already transferred to the UJRA Treasury. The Committee discussed ways of strengthening its organizational structure and the co-operation of the Verbands and Landsmanshaften. Another meeting is scheduled to be held shortly.

2. Mr. Michael Garber, K.C., comments on Outremont School Question

Mr. Michael Garber, K.C., chairman of the Committee on Education of Jewish children in Outremont replied promptly to the statement of the Outremont Protestant Board of School Trustees regarding the education of Jewish children in Outremont. Mr. Garber's statement appeared simultaneously with the one of the Outremont Protestant Board in the "Star" of May 16th. Mr. Garber stated that the financial question was now all "water over the dam" in view of the Provincial Government's decision to pay deficits out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. As to Jewish Holidays disrupting the classes, Mr. Garber stated that this was provided for in the agreement, and that while nominally there were 13 Jewish holidays only seven or eight actually interfere with school attendance as others are at weekends or during the Easter recess. Referring to the Jewish parochial school, Mr. Garber stated that Jewish parents had the right to send their children to get private education where they desired. By so doing they were not depriving the Protestant School Trustees of any revenue, as they paid their school taxes whether their children attended or not. He added that about 100 Jewish children attended the parochial school at three o'clock, in addition to the 200 regular all-day students. Mr. Garber said that according to the figures quoted by the Provincial Secretary, the Jews provided 66.08 of the attendance and contributed 75.73 per cent of the taxes, and those were the figures the Board had given the Parents Committee for 1944-45. Mr. Garber added that one criticism still remained - the non-appointment of Jewish teachers who under the old agreement were eligible for appointment and promotion - he hoped this would be remedied in the new agreement the Act authorized the Board to make. Mr. Garber stressed that the Jewish community will never agree to any kind of segregation and he challenged the statement of the board that it had to group the students "solely on account of the strict observance of Jewish pupils of their religious holidays". Mr. Garber pointed out that the original agreement provided that no segregation would be instituted and at the same time the provision was made for the Jewish children to observe Jewish holidays, which is the best proof that Jewish holidays do not justify any kind of segregation.

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

3. Passing Away of J.S. Granatstein

Mr. J.S. Granatstein, co-chairman of the UJRA in Ontario died suddenly. Mr. Ben Sadowski, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Central Division, paid tribute to Mr. Granatstein by saying; "The sudden death of J.S. Granatstein is a great loss to the entire Jewish community. He was a co-chairman of the United Jewish Relief and Refugee Agencies. His work for the refugees who came to our shores was a labor of love and devotion. He has given practically all of his time to aiding the refugees in becoming adjusted to a new and more hopeful life in Canada." Tribute was also paid by Mr. Sam Kronick, co-chairman of the UJRA in Ontario. The National Director conveyed to Mrs. Granatstein the sympathy of the officers of Congress.

4. Community Leaders Asked For Names of Orphaned Children

A circular letter was sent to community leaders, members of the Dominion Council, asking them to send us names of orphaned children overseas under 18 years of age known to them. These names will be included in the master file for formal application for admission to Canada. It was felt that we should try to obtain information about all children in whose admission interest has already been taken. We stated in our circular letter the difficulties which stand in the way of a rapid and substantial movement of children such as that Canadian immigration officials are not yet operating in many countries which creates a serious obstacle in assembling children from these countries; exit permits will be slow in coming as many countries are anxious to retain children and young people within their boundaries; there are internal difficulties within the Jewish communities overseas, which have militated against similar projects and we may encounter the same situation.

5. Niagara Falls Public Library Restates Thanks for Universal Jewish Encyclopedia.

We received another letter from the librarian of Niagara Falls Public Library in which thanks of the Board are expressed for the gift of a set of Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, which we presented to this library. The letter reads as follows: "Your letter of May 2nd announcing the gift to this Library from your Canadian Jewish Congress of the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, was announced at the meeting of this Library Board, held on May 12th. The Board was very much pleased with your gift, and I was instructed to express to you their appreciation of it. The value of this Encyclopedia to the Library for use in the Community for the purpose of fostering knowledge of Jewish history and traditions was felt by the Members."

6. Co-ordination of Overseas Relief Activities in South America

In the IOI of May 9th, we reported on the co-ordination of relief activities in South America, and on the formation of a joint committee for overseas relief of the Joint Distribution Committee and the World Jewish Congress in Argentine; Mr. Caiserman's tour in South America was credited with having laid the basis for the present campaign. Dr. A. Leon Kubowitzki, secretary general of the WJC, drew our attention to the fact that the agreement in question was reached only in the Argentine and not in the whole of South America.

7. Rumanian Children will be Admitted under Orphan Scheme

We spoke to Mr. A.L. Joliffe, Director of the Immigration Branch in Ottawa about including several hundred Rumanian children in the childrens' movement. We wanted to clear possible difficulties in view of the fact that the Order in Council refers to displaced persons and a ruling was necessary as to the eligibility of children coming from Rumania. Mr. Joliffe assured us that there will be no obstacles in admitting these children as soon as they can be brought to a country where Canadian Immigration offices are already set up. The suggestion to bring children from Rumania has been advanced by Mr. Irwin Rosen in Paris in our recent phone conversation with him; Mr. Rosen informed us of the possibility of getting out of Rumania several hundred of orphaned children whom the Rumanian government would grant exit permits and who could easily be flown to Paris for Canadian examination.

8. Federation of Polish Jews

A delegation of the Federation of Polish Jews called on the National Director and discussed their relief projects and 1947 program. The delegation consisted of: B. Diamond of Montreal, Zucker, Shemen and Garfunkel of Toronto. The Federation of Polish Jews held on Sunday its annual convention; our general secretary represented Congress and spoke at their banquet.

9. British Columbia Congress Branch

A meeting of the British Columbia Branch of Congress was held on April 29th in Vancouver. It was reported that the Vancouver Jewish External Welfare Fund would raise \$45,000 in 1947. The Federated Jewish Women Organization advised that they were disbanding, as the funds in their overseas treasury have been disbursed; all equipment originally belonging to this organization would be sold and the funds used in further overseas assistance. The organization was thanked for their efforts and interest in overseas relief. Mr. Charles Walfish and Mr. Dave Zimmerman were elected delegates from British Columbia to the Plenary Session.

10. Election of Delegates to Plenary Session

The Quebec Jewish Community will be represented at the Plenary Session by Mr. O. Miller, Miss Rachel Smiley and Mr. Sydney Lazarovitz.

Glace Bay delegates are: Wm. Chernin, M. Begun; I. Borden, B. Hamburg, L. Green.

Following were elected as Winnipeg delegates: B. Adelman, M. Bakal, Mrs. F. Bakalinsky, A.I. Boroditsky, J. Boroditsky, H. Buchwald, B. Burke, S. Cherniak, M. Cohen, F. Donner, Miss G. Feldman, J. Fleishman, J. Goltzman, Miss S. Goodman, M.A. Gray, Mrs. B. Lepkin, S.B. Levine, M. Moser, Mrs. M. Natch, D. Orlikow, A. Osovsky, E. Parkber, S.M. Selchen, Mrs. H. Shapiro, P. Sheps, S. Sheps, J. Silverberg, A. Simkin, Mrs. Y. Steinberg, J. Steinberg, N. Witman, S.H. Weidman, J. Wolinsky, J. Yanovsky, J. Zuken.

Mr. H.A. Friedman will represent Edmonton; F. Miller and Dr. S. Baltzan-Saskatoon; G. Grubert - Beausejour.