

**YOUR ATTENTION**

FROM Saul Hayes

No. 219 CONFIDENTIAL

August 26th, 1947.

1. Compilation of Laws Against Discrimination

The Social and Economic Research Committee of our Central Region completed a compilation of laws against discrimination because of race, colour, creed or national origin. It is intended to serve as a source of reference for anti-discriminative enactments applicable to the field of civil rights and as a guide for utilization of previous experiences. Provision has been made for the inclusion of supplementary statutes; as new enactments appear that have bearing upon the field of civil rights they will be sent out in summarized form for inclusion in the compilation. Part I deals with legislative acts in Canada; part II with the legislative acts in United States; part III comprises model civil rights bills. (drafted by American Jewish Congress, American Civil Liberties Union and the Civil Rights Bill for the District of Columbia.)

2. JDC Helped Actively Jewish Resistance Movement Under Nazi Occupation

We received from the Jewish Publication Society of America a copy of the recent book "Blessed is the Match" by Marie Syrkin. The book is based on interviews with survivors and gives an account of the rescue missions and Jewish armed resistance in various countries under Nazi occupation. Several references are made to the rescue and relief work of the JDC which was able for a period of time to provide help for the Warsaw Ghetto uprising without always being aware of the precise purpose of the money conveyed. Reference is also made to the fact that the Nazis repeatedly attempted to approach the JDC directly with an offer to permit the ransom of European Jewry if their conditions were met; the States Department was naturally informed of all such overtures and the American government took the position that no American citizen could be involved in negotiations with the enemy. In view, however, of the possibility of gaining time, the War Refugees Board agreed to permit Swiss citizens and a representative of the JDC in Geneva to discuss terms for the release of Jews. The protracted negotiations were instrumental in saving thousands of Jews.

3. Analysis of "Congress Attitude Towards "Bill of Rights" Issue

Mr. M.H. Myerson of Montreal, member of the National sub-committee on Bill of Rights, prepared an extensive analysis on Congress attitude towards Bill of Rights. Mr. Myerson deals with the problem of minority rights in modern international law, the difference between rights of men and minority rights and considerations and reasons for attitudes to be adopted in regard to the International and Canadian Bill of Rights.

4. New Chairman of Congress Committee in Belleville

Mr. Ted Schwab has been elected as chairman of Congress in Belleville. He succeeds in this office Mr. Allen Diamond.

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5. Study on "Fascism in Action" for Public Relations Committee

We are making arrangements for the members of the Public Relations Committee to receive a copy of the study on "Fascism in Action" which was completed sometime ago by the United States Library of Congress legislative reference service, and which has now been published by the authority of the House of Representatives in Washington. The study gives an exhaustive survey of the workings of the fascist regimes in Europe; added is a foreword written by Wright Patman deploring the notion that Fascism is purely a foreign movement, now discredited and defected, and pointing to "many strong symptoms" of it in the United States scene. An editorial in today's Montreal "Gazette" entitled "Anti-Fascist Vigilance Still Needed" stressed that "Canadians as well as Americans should find an informative warning in the study of "Fascism in Action"; the editorial continues: "Up to the start of the war, Canada also had its imitative Fascist and Nazi groups. Though those movements have been dissipated and their followers have dropped out of sight, it would be a mistake to assume that they could not readily be revived should the public authorities and people of this country relax their vigilance. The germs of Fascist thought, and potential zeal to promote their popular acceptance and application, are merely latent in this country. It needs to be watched and constantly suppressed to prevent its evil sway spreading."

6. Children's Movement

Mr. Saalheimer returned from Paris where he spent three weeks acting as liaison on our behalf for the 1000 orphan children's project. He also contacted the Jewish community in Brussels; several children now in Belgium may qualify for this scheme. There are also other prospects; some children in the D.P. camps who had to go to United States can't proceed due to legal difficulties and may be redirected to Canada.