

## Problems Concerning American Jewish Youth.

DISCUSSED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Narrowsburg, N.Y.

The question of developing a more positive identification with Judaism among American Jewish youth was one of the main problems discussed at the first National Jewish Youth Conference, held here under the auspices of the Youth Planning Commission of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Speakers at the conference, which was attended by 200 delegates from 65 Jewish communities, pointed out that Jewish youth must participate in campaigns to combat anti-Semitism both with education and legislation and that the progress of Jewish youth is inter-related with the democratic way of living. Some of the delegates reported that the following three developments have taken place in America since the establishment of Israel:—

(1) An encouragingly large number of Christians have become more sympathetic to the Jewish cause; (2) many Jews in this country have developed a deeper sense of pride in themselves through pride in the people of Israel; and (3) Americans who had a "borderline" attitude toward the Jewish people in the past, have since developed a deep respect for them because of what has happened in Israel.

Reporting that there are 300 Jewish Youth Councils in the United States to-day, A. N. Pins, chairman of the Planning Commission, told the delegates that these councils are the best media through which they can meet the issues facing Jewish youth in this country. They are given direct service by the Jewish Welfare Board in the form of aid in the development of programme ideas and techniques, and in the form of consultation services, he said.

### PERMANENT BODY CREATED.

A permanent body representing Jewish youth and young adult councils and other Jewish youth groups throughout the United States was created at the close of the Conference.

The new body will retain the name of the National Jewish Youth Conference. Its purposes will be: to exchange experiences and programme ideas on youth and young adult levels; to initiate programmes nationally which could aid local communities; to act as a sounding board of needs of youth and young adults; to stimulate and aid in the development of youth and young adult councils; to facilitate relationships with other cultural and ethnic groups; to serve as an instrument for co-operation and exchange between American Jewish youth, the people of Israel and youth all over the world; to provide opportunity for the development of leadership; to provide a medium for democratic representation from youth and young adult councils on national and international youth serving bodies; to develop a medium of co-operation between the Jewish youth and young adult councils; and to provide a self-governing, representative body of organised Jewish youth which can develop a service for meeting the needs of American Jewish young people.

The Conference sent greetings to the State of Israel and called for a greater understanding between youth all over the world and asked for increased professional guidance in the field of youth service.—J.T.A.

## Call for Condemnation of "Cultural Genocide."

INTERNATIONAL BODY URGES PURGE OF TEXT BOOKS.

Paris.

Support for an enquiry conducted by the World Jewish Congress with a view to securing the eliminating from text books used in schools in various countries of passages containing statements discriminating against any religious or racial group, was pledged by the delegates of 25 international religious and educational organisations represented on the T.I.C.E.R. (Temporary International Council for Education and Reconstruction) at a meeting held here.

The Council, which is the official advisory body to Unesco, unanimously adopted the following resolution introduced by Dr. N. Barou, Executive member of the World Jewish Congress: "The T.I.C.E.R., having received a report from the representatives of the World Jewish Congress concerning in particular an enquiry which the World Jewish Congress is instituting regarding discriminations of all kind in schools, as well as concerning the cognate problem of revision of text books, recommends that the members of T.I.C.E.R. give the World Jewish Congress and any other organisation of T.I.C.E.R. every assistance in that or any similar enquiry. At the same time, T.I.C.E.R. invites these organisations to inform it about the results of their enquiry.

At a press conference here, Dr. Barou recalled that the World Jewish Congress, at its recent plenary session at Montreux, adopted a resolution instructing the Executive to make such an enquiry. He said it was important that "cultural genocide" be condemned not less strongly than physical genocide and stressed the necessity of world-wide re-education in this respect. He deplored that Unesco has allowed three years to pass without taking action in this matter.—J.T.A.

## ISRAELI YOUTH MISSION LAYS WREATH ON GRAVE OF PRES. ROOSEVELT.

New York.

The nine-member Israeli Youth Mission which is touring the United States on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal laid a wreath on the grave of Franklin D. Roosevelt at Hyde Park, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., at whose invitation the five women and four men came to this country, accompanied them on their pilgrimage to Hyde Park.

Capt. Yehuda Koppel, acting as spokesman for the group, explained that its purpose in visiting the late President's grave was "to express the appreciation of the people of Israel for the historic contributions which President Roosevelt made toward the establishment of the Jewish State. For the people of Israel, President Roosevelt symbolised the friendship and assistance which they received from the people of the United States."—J.T.A.

## J.D.C. AIDS BOGOTA RIOT VICTIMS.

Bogota.

The sum of 50,000 dollars allocated by the Joint Distribution Committee as aid for Jewish families here whose property was destroyed during the political riots last April, was distributed in the form of credits to be repaid within three years. This is the first time that a Jewish community in Latin America was in need of J.D.C. aid.—J.T.A.

## From my Desk

... By ...

HASOFER



### Betrayal.

I wish that I could infuse my writing with that bitterness and invective that permeates the twenty-eighth chapter of Deuteronomy. The dastardly murder, in cold blood, of Count Bernadotte was as great a disservice to the cause of our national homeland as could ever have been perpetrated. Personally, and in this I am sure that I am not alone, I have always felt that those who would deal easily and tolerantly with the dissident groups were misguided in the extreme. The inexcusable killing has shocked thinking Jewry. The thoughtless action on the part of a small, self-opinionated, irresponsible and undisciplined group has had the immediate effect of casting international odium upon the whole of our national endeavour in Israel. This has been the immediate result; who knows what may yet eventuate? It seems almost inconceivable that there are persons who could, to such an extent, besmirch and befoul the good repute of those age-old traditions of Jewish justice upon which are based the very fundamentals of civilisation. Such people betray their heritage. Their actions redound to the discredit of their fellow Jews. They must be uprooted. I trust they will be uprooted.

### Incomprehensible.

Mr. Don Iddon, a columnist who always seems to have the knack of upsetting me, has this week written another of his little diatribes. He this time hinged it on the ban upon the showing of the film "Oliver Twist," and blames the "Rabbis" for the fact that the picture was declared to be one which was not in the best interests of goodwill. Dickens himself excused the creation of the character of Fagin because unfortunately a few Jews of the time "belonged to that class in which Fagin operated." It was Dickens, however, who in his "Child's History of England," to use his own words, "expressed a strong abhorrence for their persecution in olden times." Unfortunately fewer children are likely to read the "Child's History of England" than will see the film "Oliver Twist." In the interests of their "art" film moguls have often before now altered the story of many a classic until, beyond having the same title, their production bore but the slightest resemblance to the original. Only a very little licence was needed to have altered the character in a film which might engender anti-Semitism, particularly a film billed to start its Cape Town "run" on Rosh Hashonah.

### More Bad Taste.

An American custom which I have never liked is the habit of arranging High Festival Services in halls where the officiating Chazan is a person who is billed as having had, during the previous year, outstanding "vocal success" with his orchestra or in that club. I have always felt proud that such overflow High Festival Services we had in this country were generally arranged without any ostentatious and undignified accompanying advertising propaganda. This year apparently the old order has changed "yielding place to new." However worthy the cause of the Jewish Centre of Johannesburg might be, I think that the indiscriminate mailing of large advertisements (18 inches by 15 inches) announcing the holding of services, the proceeds of which would be for the Centre funds, was in the very worst taste. It was even more distasteful

when one of our most prominent local communal leaders received one of these "dodgers" stating that services would be held "in the spacious attractive hall of the Skyline Hotel in Johannesburg." To add to the bad taste, the envelope had in addition to his correct address the words "occupier." Incidentally, since he previously received it by virtue of the position he personally holds in the community, I think it was unnecessary to add the word "Messrs." before his professional designation.

### Avoidable.

Only too often can a little attention to detail avoid some of those quite unnecessary faux pas made by well-meaning but careless folk. Estimable as it was, the recent effort by two or three little girls in one of our suburban areas for the Israel Fund would have been all the more meritorious if their parents would have pointed out that Shabbat afternoon was not exactly the right time to hold a concert. I cannot blame the children, but I do strongly task the parents to task. Too much comment on this subject is not required.

### Vice Versa.

The Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation has a series of adult Hebrew classes in addition to its ordinary classes for children of school-going age. As is only too often the case, many of the adults have had to start from "scratch"; as a result, there are actually grand-parents, parents and children who all use the same text books. I am amused by the true story of the mother, who for one or other of those many reasons that always keep a mother busy could not attend her usual class. She phoned the teacher to ask whether her twelve-year-old daughter could not help her with her homework.

### Joel Myerson.

Joel Myerson, who passed away this week, belonged to that group of artists who provided entertainment for an older generation in the days when cinemas were less attractive and films less entertaining. Amongst my earliest recollections of him was when he sang on the platform of one of our local theatres on the occasion of the celebration of the opening of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A monster meeting for children was organised by local Zionists. I remember the chief speaker on that occasion was the late Mr. A. M. Abraham, chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation. He called for three cheers which could be heard on Mount Scopus. The cheers given at that moment might possibly have almost been heard in Jerusalem, but were only a trifle louder than the applause accorded the popular tenor, whose delightful voice and amusing Yiddish songs were appreciated by the youthful audience.

### Perhaps.

I have before now written about the "Tal's and Teph'llin" breakfasts arranged by some American Congregations. One of these Congregations recently announced in its official bulletin "Bagels and Locks" will be discontinued as a Sunday morning breakfast item. "Coffee and Doughnuts" will be served instead. "Aha," said one old-timer, "assimilation."