

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## World Jewish Congress Leader Replies to "Zionist Record" Editorial

Sir,—My attention has been called to your editorial "In Small Units."

May I venture to state that you have been misinformed. I never based my "plea for the admission of 10,000 Jews to Belgium on the grounds that this figure would bring the number of Jews in Belgium to its pre-war strength." The reason is obvious. There are now in Belgium some 50,000 Jews less than there were on May 10, 1939.

Nor did I use a similar argument in my negotiations with the Swedish Government. There the reason is even more obvious, because there are now in Sweden 10,000 Jews more than there were in 1939.

Belgium, Sweden and some other countries in Western and Scandinavian Europe are now in need of manpower. In Belgium and in France the "Jewish trades," especially the needle trades, have been depleted by the deportations. I based my representations on economic and humanitarian grounds.

The undersigned is not unmindful in his work of "the Zionist-minded reader," as he happens to be not without Zionist affiliations and has been a delegate to all Zionist Congresses since 1933.

May I state in conclusion that no one regrets more than I do the publicity that has been given to my modest efforts to contribute to the solution of the tragic problem of our brethren in the camps of Germany, Austria and Italy. There is still an arduous task before us which requires much patience, steadfastness and knowledge of local conditions and people. As far as humiliation is concerned, I think that the real Jewish Askanim "are proud in humility; proud in that they are not proud."

Yours, etc.,

A. LEON KUBOWITZKI.

New York.

## In Defence of Dr. Rabinowitz

Sir,—I am in close and intimate contact with the communal leaders in Pretoria, and wish to deny the allegation made by Rabbi Dr. Hirsch in a letter published in last week's "Zionist Record" that Dr. Rabinowitz had canvassed for the Chief Rabbinate among the laity in Pretoria. The fact of the matter is that Dr. Rabinowitz has no need to canvass in Pretoria. His learning and scholarship, combined with his remarkable personal qualities, have captured the hearts and minds of Pretoria Jewry.

Since Dr. Rabinowitz arrived in South Africa there has been a revival of Synagogue attendances in Johannesburg. "Shools" are filled to overflowing on Friday nights, Saturdays and on Yom Tovim. People travel miles to listen to his sermons. The spiritual life of the Jew has been intensified and revitalised by this purposeful and energetic Rabbi.

In regard to the Chief Rabbinate it is time a properly constituted authority was set up to speak on behalf of South African Orthodox Jewry. Dr. Rabinowitz is Chief Rabbi of the

largest congregation in the Union. He can speak on behalf of by far the greatest number. However, no one can speak for all our people and it is time the carping critics attempted to do something constructive in the matter.

Too many of our Rabbis in the past have placed personal pride before service and duty to the community. What was tolerated between Rabbis would not have been endured in lay leaders. Hitherto the rank and file shrugged their shoulders and said the "Rov meg." The general body of Jewry in South Africa is now heartily sick of these insensate quarrels and disputes between the Rabbonim. There is a growing awareness of the arrogance to the contempt for the community which their conduct implies.

Is it not possible for our Rabbis to discuss their problems at a round-table conference? Is there no humility at all in those who preach it from dawn to dusk? Is the burning desire to serve the people, by which Rabbonim should be consumed, to be extinguished by the worship of self or "Yichus." If practical steps are not taken soon to show a truer expression of their calling, believe me, the ordinary man will cease to have any respect for the Ministry at all. The time has come when the Rabbi, because of his superior knowledge and greater responsibility, "meg nisht."

We want to learn by example and the Rabbis are being watched. I hope and pray that our religious leaders will be big enough to realise the folly of their ways in the past and that they will endeavour to bring peace and harmony to their sorely stricken people.

Yours, etc.,

H. BELLING.

Pretoria.

[This letter has been considerably condensed.—Ed., "Z.R."]

## Four Questions

Sir,—In order that there should be no misunderstanding, I wish to state that the letter published in the "Zionist Record" of November 15, under the heading of "Four Questions" and signed by me, was not seen by the Lema-an Hashabbath Committee before its publication.

Yours, etc.,

R. LURIE.

Johannesburg.

## Improvement of Services

Sir,—Some weeks back a letter appeared in your columns over the signature of "B.C." making some pertinent suggestions for the improvement of Synagogue services.

I hope these suggestions will not go unheeded. The sight of "worshippers" without anything to which they can refer in their prayers is one which fills us with pity for them (though, also, with sentiments less charitable). It is the business of the Synagogue to teach such people the right path to Synagogue worship.

Yours, etc.,

"WORSHIPPER."

Johannesburg.

## Zionist Socialist Delegation to Congress

Sir,—In view of numerous enquiries made to the Zionist Socialist Party office regarding the composition of the Zionist Socialist delegation to the World Zionist Congress, my Central Committee has instructed me to inform you of the facts regarding the delegation, which are as follows:

The following members of the Zionist Socialist Party are definitely attending the World Zionist Congress as part of our delegation: Messrs. Louis Pincus, Alexander Lewin, Leo Tager, Jack Kretzmer, Mrs. Fanny Raphael and Mrs. D. Fredman.

In addition, Miss Phyllis Rabkin and Messrs. J. Lewis, A. Goldes and S. Rubinstein are making arrangements to attend.

All these persons will attend the World Ichud Conference, which commences on December 4, and which concludes after the concluding sessions of the World Zionist Congress. As regards the World Zionist Congress, this delegation will decide on the two official representatives to which the Zionist Socialist Party is entitled, in consultation with our World Movement.

Yours, etc.,

N. HERRMANN,  
Secretary, Zionist Socialist Party.

Shakespeare House,  
Johannesburg.

## STATEMENT BY ELECTORAL BOARD

In view of the announcement which appeared in last week's issue of the "Zionist Record," that Messrs. L. A. Pincus and L. Tager will represent the Zionist Socialist Party of South Africa at the World Zionist Congress, we have asked the Central Electoral Board to comment on the above letter.

The Board states that delegates on all the party lists were declared elected on the basis of the largest number of votes polled. In the event of any such elected delegates resigning, the candidates next on the list with the largest number of votes are declared elected. The candidates on the Zionist Socialist Party list appeared in the following order: Adv. L. A. Pincus, Dr. Ellen Hellman, L. Cooper, P. Gluckmann, L. Tager.

The Board received resignations from Dr. Ellen Hellman and from Messrs. L. Cooper and P. Gluckmann. On this basis the Board declared Adv. L. A. Pincus and Mr. L. Tager elected delegates for the Zionist Socialist Party.

Should the position change when the Zionist Socialist delegation reaches Basle, the Board will make a further announcement.

## Support for Jewish Musical Institute

Sir,—The Jewish Musical Institute wishes to express its sincerest thanks to Mr. Solly Aronowsky, the Musical Director of the Institute, Mr. Zelik Engel, the Manager, and all ladies and gentlemen who gave their valuable assistance in making the concert given last Saturday in the Selbourne Hall, possible. Last but not least, the Institute wishes to thank the Jewish press for the wide publicity given.

The concert was of a very high standard and all the artists deserve praise.

The Jewish Musical Institute is

## 20TH CENTURY

Phone 22-9561.

Daily at 2.30 and 8 p.m.  
Saturdays 10.15, 2.30, 6 and 9.

2nd GREAT WEEK

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S World Famous  
Masterpiece of Terror!

## "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE"

A 20th Century Fox Release

— STARRING —

BARRY FITZGERALD  
WALTER HUSTON  
LOUIS HAYWARD

proud to have as one of its branches the Youth Symphony Orchestra, which consists of the best Jewish talent and which has already proved an asset to the Jewish community by its excellent performances and by the encouragement it gives to young musicians, offering them a rare opportunity in ensemble playing.

It is hoped that the Jewish community will give its fullest support to the Jewish Musical Institute, with its most important aims.

Yours, etc.,

Z. INFELD,

Chairman of the Executive  
Committee.

Johannesburg.

## MIZRACHI ORGANISATION OF JOHANNESBURG (NORTHERN BRANCH)

## A SYMPOSIUM

will take place at the  
SIVE HALL

Cor. Hunter Street and Kenmere  
Road, Yeoville

on

SUNDAY, 1st DECEMBER,  
1946, at 8 p.m.

Subject:

"Temporary Jewish Problems"

Speakers:

Rabbi M. Kossowsky  
(Chairman, Mizrachi Organisation  
of S.A.)

Rabbi Dr. I. Harris  
Rev. Dr. A. Lichtigfeld  
(Minister, Germiston Hebrew Con-  
gregation)

In the Chair:

Mr. B. Kellen  
(Secretary, Johannesburg Commit-  
tee, Keren Hayesod and member,  
Mizrachi Executive)

## S.A. ZIONIST FEDERATION

## Office Junior

(Male)

wanted for despatch and general  
office work. Apply:

ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY

Permanent Buildings

Commissioner Street

Johannesburg