

J.D.C. New Services

BY EDWARD GINSBERG
(CONTINUED)

In the field of professional training, JDC/Malben has done a pioneering job. From its very beginning it initiated and conducted courses for personnel needed to administer modern health and welfare programs. In addition to the school for speech clinicians, professional and financial support continues to be extended to the Occupational Therapy School in Jerusalem and to the renowned Paul Baerwald School of Social Work at the Hebrew University, which was constructed by the JDC out of legacy funds, and which continues to receive JDC support for several programs in the school.

During my talk with the University's President, Avraham Harman, he proposed that JDC help establish a gerontological institute for the study of the problems of the aging. "In view of JDC's outstanding work in the field, it would be particularly appropriate for the organization to be associated with this project," President Harman stated. I agreed that the proposal deserved our closest study.

At the Paul Baerwald School I spoke to the director, Dr. Milton Rosenbaum, and some of his outstanding staff. We discussed a number of the country's social problems and what the School was doing about them. Naturally, they would like to do even more. High on their list of priorities is the establishment of an institute for social planning where long-range studies and planning of the country's social needs would be made. A very necessary project indeed. I promised that we would study their proposal.

The Ministry of Health had another "shopping list," as did every other institution. And every suggested program was a justifiable "must." Services that we in the U.S. take for granted are considered as luxuries although the authorities realize the dire need and want them. With their ever mounting political and economic problems, the Israelis can only afford to tackle the most desperately urgent projects - and even these with difficulty.

The people of Israel and their leaders are realistic. They are aware that JDC cannot solve all of their health and social problems. They understand that they will have to continue bearing a major part of the burden.

I did tell them, however, that the AJDC (or the "Joint," as so many of them lovingly refer to it) also stands for "American Jews Do Care!" I also told them that modern Jewish history has eliminated the concept of "them" and "us"; that if something happens to our people in Israel, it affects us as well.

I pointed out that JDC allocates the largest portion of its budget - almost 40 per cent - to its Israel programs. Knowing something of the American Jewish community and the JDC, I felt confident in telling all our Israeli friends that we could be counted on to do even more. Like our people in Israel: We've been doing the maximum. Now we must perform the impossible.

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LAS VEGAS

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The government has announced a grant of \$1,008,962 to Jewish Agencies to hire and train 344 disadvantaged persons in the Metropolitan New York area effective July 1.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Five Black Panthers were arrested and charged with planning to bomb the offices of the Jewish Defense League.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- A request that Rep. John G. Schmitz (R., CALIF.) repudiated his endorsement of an anti-Semitic book would not be commented on at this time. The congressman's administrative assistant told the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. ADL said Schmitz wrote the foreword to and commended "Non Dare Call It Conspiracy" by Gary Allen which is based on the anti-Semitic forgery "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Sen. Gordon Allott chairman of the Republican policy committee of the Senate, told that body Israel would be "irresponsible" if she withdrew to her pre-1967 war borders, and that other nations were "reprehensible" for suggesting such withdrawal.

RABAT (WNS) -- In a unanimous resolution the 34 heads of states attending the Presidents Conference of the Organization for African Unity condemned Israel "for its negative position" and "obstruction" of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Cabinet approved the appointment of its two representatives to the elections committee which will supervise elections of the Chief Rabbinate, Aharon Uzzan, and Rabbi Yehuda Schulman.

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Family Consultation

BY DOROTHY RABINOWITZ
(Author of Home Life and The Other Jews)

On a similar note, Dr. Robert Gordis, Professor of Religion at Temple University and noted biblical scholar, cited current family trends and their implications. There is a weakening of parental and personal authority, he declared, a weakening of monogamous marriage and a rapid increase in all aspects of secularism. The home as a religious center has almost disappeared, and as Jews become more and more secularized, there is a decreasing involvement in Jewish community concerns.

"No society can endure without a religious fabric undergirding it," Dr. Gordis warned. "And this is as true for Jews as for any other people." The synagogue, Dr. Gordis lamented, has acquiesced in the decline of religion, because it has allowed itself to become a substitute for the home. Nevertheless, he declared, the synagogue is still the most important institution in Jewish life.

Dr. Gordis also noted that he could conceive of no weaker reed for the preservation of Jewish life than the current ethnicity. "Ethnicity itself," he predicted, "is a passing phenomenon. But Judaism has long been the umbrella which protected all kinds of ethnicity." The word "preserve," Dr. Gordis cautioned, has two meanings: One is "to safeguard" and the other is "to pickle." Jews must be careful which of these they choose.

Another principal speaker, Rabbi Herman Pollack, adviser of B'nai B'rith Society of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, provided the Consultation with a historical overview of the Jewish family. Stressing the significantly changing self-concept of Jewish youth, Dr. Pollack pointed out that in medieval times there was no reference to adolescence, because a Jew at the age of 13 was a man and not alienated from the adult world. Dr. Pollack also pointed out that during the Renaissance, when individualism became crucial, the communal structure of Jewish life became less important.

Dr. Sidney Goldstein, Professor of Sociology and Director of Population Studies and Training Center at Brown University, commented on the decreasing Jewish proportion in the total American population, and noted that American Jews were becoming more and more dispersed. Weakening family ties, and a general decrease in discrimination, have led Jews to desert the Northeast and the urban areas they were the traditional Jewish centers. Dr. Goldstein also reported that the Jewish fertility rate had been dropping sharply since the 19th century and is now almost below replacement level.