### THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

5. Both planning and treatment of convalescent and chronic care patients require general hospital facilities.

Such hospital service is expensive because of its heavy dependence upon skilled personnel. Salaries, of course, are regulated by the competitive market and private hospitals must bid for staff in this same market.

The overwhelming problem of where will the increased budgets come from is being met in part on the West Coast by turning to government agencies (the county) for partial reimbursement of free service which would otherwise be a government responsibility.

Voluntary hospitals may also have funds made available to them by research foundations financed by big business who more and more are establishing research activities.

## Dr. Harold G. Trimble:

"There is no Jewish disease, hence why a Jewish hospital?" More Jews are hos-

pitalized in non-Jewish institutions than in Jewish institutions. Jewish patients vary from 6 percent to 90 percent in hospitals throughout the country according to information supplied by the CJFWF. The argument, thus, is weak that you have Jewish hospitals to serve Jewish patients.

A more valid argument for Jewish hospitals is the prime need for providing training opportunities for Jewish internes. With limited general facilities and apparently contracting placement opportunity for Jewish medical school graduates, Jewish hospital placements serve an unquestioned need. Jewish hospitals in addition have primary concern for and interest in their Jewish patients and through their high medical standards contribute to general medical knowledge.

As already stated, hospitals are expensive institutions to create and maintain and, accordingly, small Jewish communities cannot afford them. Regretfully, they must do the best they can with the existing facilities in their own community.

# TOWARD THE REHABILITATION OF EUROPEAN JEWRY

By LEO W. SCHWARZ \*

American Friends of the

American Friends of the Hebrew University

TY remarks today are based on the assumption that the surviving Iews of Europe can be rehabilitated. The recovery of large segments of Jews in the countries of western Europe, in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, and the spiritual toughness of the displaced Jews only two years after liberation fortify this assumption. But a successful program of rehabilitation will depend upon our understanding of the actual needs of the people as well as a well-defined policy and plan. My experience abroad and my recent contact with our community in the U.S. underscore the necessity of broad-gauged planning. However, before discussing the problems of rehabilitation, I should like to correct certain prevalent misconceptions, especially regarding the DP's.

First of all, the belief that the Jews are a heap of human wreckage and the displaced persons are an assemblage of psychotics is utterly false. The most singular characteristic of our people in Europe is their unmatched vitality and resiliency. I have never had so exhilarating and stimulating an experience in my life as my year with the displaced Jews in Germany. They are a remarkable group of human beings. It is significant that Munich has become the most vital center of Jewish religious and cultural activity in Europe.

Secondly, the prevailing conception of Jewish life in the DP assembly centers of Germany, Austria and Italy is fantastic. There is not as yet an accurate substantial report of the status and existence of Jewish displaced persons. There is no barbed wire around any of the DP assembly centers. These range from cottage plan type like Freiman Siedlung in Munich and apartment blocks as in Stuttgart to military barracks such as Pocking. The rooms are overcrowded, the furnishings are sparse and makeshift at best. Schools, synagogues and workshops are simple and inadequate but they exist in almost every camp. The people are free to move in and out of camp, though travel and accommodations outside of camp are difficult. Little has been done to improve conditions because both the people and the occupying authorities regarded the assembly centers as collecting points for emigrants, and for this reason no constructive employment plans were given serious consideration until the fall of 1946. This economic immobilization has not prevented the people from developing to an extraordinary degree their religious, cultural and social institutions.

It should be remembered, moreover, that only a minority of the Jewish displaced persons are survivors of the extermination camps. There were about 30,000 in the U. S. Zone of Germany, and about 25 percent have already left for Palestine, the United States and other

<sup>\*</sup>Dr. Schwarz was formerly Director of DP operations in Germany for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

countries. These persecutees were given Polish repatriates from Soviet Russia. priority under the Truman Emigration Plan and these are the people for the most part with whom we are acquainted at the present time in the United States. Our experience with these people at Schloss Elmau, a beautiful rest center in the Bavarian Alps, was significant: During a stay there for a period of two to four weeks, their rapid return to normal living under favorable conditions was remarkable. During these past months I have seen a number of these people in cities of the United States, and their adjustment appears to be better than we had anticipated.

It should be pointed out that approximately 20,000 Jewish DP's live outside the assembly centers, in German communities. They live in homes and apartfamilies, authorized by Military Government Property Control. Some of them are engaged in private business and receive a small monthly stipend from the Bavarian Government and supplementary support from the AJDC. Their standard of life is somewhat higher than that of the people who live in assembly centers.

Another group among the DP's are the Partisans, comparable to the Jewish maquis in France. They lived in the forests of Poland, White Russia and Czechoslovakia during the war, and after liberation joined friends and relatives in the U. S. Zone of Occupation of Germany. They are physically and mentally tough, and their psychology is that of liberators rather than liberated. Their story makes a thrilling chapter of recent history, laden with heroic exploits. Some of these partisans who have settled in Palestine have written memoirs which are unique in Jewish literature.

But the largest group by far are the

Keep in mind that they are men and women of normal families who were settled on the other side of the Caucasus and engaged in war industries. About 140,000 Jews were repatriated in the Spring of 1946. Some settled in Silesia, but the majority-about 90,000-met with such pronounced anti-Semitism that they could not remain in Poland and moved on the U.S. Zone in the hope of reach. ing Palestine and joining relatives in other countries. They are not mentally or physically displaced. As they crossed the border, one of their first questions was, "What kind of work can we get?" Most of them realized that they would have to remain in Germany for an indefinite period.

Finally, there is a dangerous tendency ments or occupy rooms in flats of German to think of the solution of the problems of Jews in Europe in terms of ideologies and apart from their general political and economic settings. There will not be a total exodus from Europe nor will all the Jews remain where they are. The attack on problems will have to be multidirectional, with a deep understanding of the conflicting attitudes and hopes of the differing elements of European Jewry. A decisive factor will be the general economic and political trends. For example, the increasing nationalization of economies in central and eastern Europe make the rehabilitation of private enterprise among Jews there unrealistic. Or any plan that envisages a permanent settlement of Jews in Germany is contrary to the psychology of the displaced Jews to whom emigration is a life-and-death question. And the ultimate value of any rehabilitation program will be determined by whether Europe will be reconstructed or will deteriorate during the coming decade.

What then are the needs of the Jews

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of Europe? I will refer specifically to the displaced Jews, though the principles may be applied with certain modifications to all of European Jewry. I call them the five R's, namely, Relief, Resettlement, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and (the protection of) Rights, including restitution and reparations. These constitute at present the herculean task of the AJDC.

1. Relief, to this audience of social workers, speaks for itself. The time for direct relief to employables is over. After two years of liberation and relief operations, this can no longer be stressed as an emergency. The people themselves want to work. They want to become self-sustaining. Relief should be confined to the children, the sick and the aged. Refugees in transit will remain a problem for some years to come but their needs should come within the scope of the intergovernmental agencies. Determination should be made of the amount of assistance which is now being given directly by relatives, and in the case of children an appropriation from the Children's Emergency Fund of the United Nations should be solicited.

2. Resettlement. The resettlement of the displaced Jews in Germany, Austria and Italy is crucial. The majority wish to go to Palestine which, they feel, is the only country clamoring for them and which psychologically is the symbol of a home and security. Every effort to spur the opening of the gates of Palestine for the displaced Jews should be exerted. Some wish to join relatives or make a fresh start in the United States and other countries. The passing of the Stratton Bill or its equivalent is urgent both for Jews and non-Jews who comprise the majority of the 850,000 displaced persons in Europe. The resettlement programs of the JDC and HIAS should be closely

coordinated with the IGCR and the IRO when they will have been activated. The ORT program too should be devised to develop and refresh skills that will serve fruitfully in the countries of ultimate resettlement.

3. Rehabilitation. The displaced Jews do not want or need "hand-outs". They have a horror of pauperization. They are begging for a chance-a plan, mind you, toward self-help and self-respect. The people in the camps represent a plethora of capabilities and diversified occupational skills. They can and will build their workshops and factories and staff them with skilled technicians and unskilled workers. They need materials and machinery and incentives. They need a small corps of teaching and supervisory personnel which AJDC can provide. The Army, Military Government and IRO must speedily implement this program lest the spirit of the people be dampened and their will-to-work be throttled. To undertake a rehabilitation program of such magnitude requires the utmost harmony and purposeful planning among all eschelons of the Army, IRO, Voluntary Agencies and the people themselves. I am glad to report that before I left Germany all of these elements combined and formed an Employment and Productivization Board to activate in a unified fashion the rehabilitation program. General McNarney gave his personal authorization, AJDC appropriated a considerable budget and Military Government provided some material for a number of projects. When I left Germany in March, seven small factory projects were in operation in camps. For example, at Pocking, the largest Jewish camp in the U. S. Zone, a small factory in which I was particularly interested and had personally helped to activate, about seventy persons were already working in a clothing unit. Despite great handicaps, the managers showed a genius for improvisation and had produced 2,000 pieces of children's clothing within ten days. This is illustrative of the intense desire to work and the ability of the people to rehabilitate themselves. I trust that this Employment Program has passed beyond the planning stage in which I left it last March.

The initiation of a large scale rehabilitation program will require a re-examination of existing policies in terms of the people's needs and available resources. The public and the agencies concerned would be well served in this respect by the organization of a permanent commission of experts who could make an on-the-spot evaluation of operations abroad. Let me quote a paragraph from the recommendations made in my report to Dr. Joseph Schwartz, dated January 13, 1947:

Clarification is needed with respect to the functions of a voluntary agency in the German program. To what extent can and should an agency supported by private funds assume responsibility for 165,000 people in Germany, not to speak of 150,000 displaced Jews in other European countries and relief needs in other lands? Up to the present AJDC in Germany had aided through supplementary supplies, finances and general welfare assistance. The time is now ripe for a redefinition of function. AJDC, as a private agency operating in a military governmental setup, should assume responsibility for specialized services, utilizing funds and supplies commensurate with its assured resources for this purpose. It appears to the writer, for example, that

AJDC personnel and budget, concentrated upon the employment program, would constitute a justifiable and constructive use of voluntary contributions.

4. Reconstruction. It is essential to differentiate clearly between rehabilitation and reconstruction. Reconstruction involves the physical and spiritual upbuilding of the Jewish communities of Europe. It means the rebuilding of economic, religious, and social institutions as well as the training of thousands of persons to man these institutions. I, for one, would question whether we want to continue to pour huge sums into parts of Europe which have written one of the bloodiest chapters in our history and from which the majority wish to escape. Granted that we do, can American Jewry undertake the financial burden of reconstructing European Jewry? The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration spent over a billion dollars in Europe last year and did not scratch the surface of relief, let alone rehabilitation and reconstruction. Reconstruction should be the responsibility of the governments of Europe, and reparations and restitution funds should be applied for this purpose. A half dozen governments have already passed restitution laws which are awaiting implementation. The AJDC budget in the U. S. Zone of Germany was minimized partly because payments to workers in the camps were made in Reichsmarks by the Burgomeister's payroll account. In the Fall of 1946, the budget allocation for the freeliving Jews in the German Gemeinde (communities) amounted to about 750,000 Reichsmarks monthly. Through joint efforts with the Staatskommisar, the Bavarian Government recognized its obligation toward these persecutees and added this allocation of funds in the

hudget. Periodic grants of considerable nums have been made to the German 1ewish Gemeinde in Stuttgart, Munich. Nuremberg and Augsburg, and not a few reconstruction undertakings such as cemeteries for mass graves, synagogues and mikvot have been allotted materials and funds by German local governments.

Especial study will have to be given to the problems of a community like Vienna. There, out of a pre-Hitler population of about 170,000, approximately 4.000 Jews remain in their native city. This small Gemeinde will inherit the properties of the great community of the nast, with buildings alone numbering about sixty. Even should all the present inhabitants remain, which is unlikely, they should be financed increasingly from funds which can later be repaid from the sale of properties.

5. Protection of Rights. I mean rights in the deepest sense of the word, the restoration and protection of human and property rights including restitution and reparation. To a people who have been robbed of everything, the struggle for security and restoration of some part of their wealth is of decisive importance. The need for personnel of international repute to execute this task is urgent, and it is good to know that the Restitution Corporation has at long last set its machinery in motion. Prior to my departure from Germany, I had the satisfaction of knowing that AJDC would be adding to its staff Dr. Werner Peiser as chief legal consultant. Dr. Peiser was a lawyer in the German Ministry prior to 1933, and is now a U. S. citizen. Prior to his IDC appointment, he was a member of the U. S. Department of Justice and counsel to the judges at the Nuremberg trials. He will be one of IDC's representatives at USFET, Frankfort and Berlin and his wide experience in Ger-

form of a per capita grant to its own man and international affairs should go a long way in negotiations with the occupying and international authorities. Skilled leadership such as this is most important for displaced and other Jews, both as a protection and a training of new European leadership.

If the kind of rehabilitation program I have adumbrated above is worked out and approved by American technicians and economists, there is no real doubt in my mind that European Jewry will make a comeback and that the Jewish community in this country will underwrite the program with enthusiasm. In sum, American Jewry can give constructive aid in the following ways:

- 1. Persons with wide experience in government and international law and economics should devise a method of making AIDC grants-in-aid self-liquidating over a term of years, thus making the rehabilitation program, not a dole, but an investment of working capital that would make our people self-supporting.
- 2. Recruit skilled, emotionally stable personnel: technicians, occupational and vocational, few in number, but highly specialized; accountants, economists and executives are what is primarily needed. The goal is the constructive rehabilitation of the people, working toward a productive economy. A few social workers specialized in child welfare, psychiatric and medical skills, for teaching a minimum of therapy should be added.
- 3. End confusion of American agencies operating overseas. This applies to Army and UNRRA as well as to Jewish and other voluntary agencies. An investigating commission should be sent over with the express mission of surveying objectively overseas agency programs. Recommendations should include the

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order to avoid the existing duplication. Basic standards regarding personnel, relief, budgetary expenses and services to the DP's should be presented.

4. Aid in setting up rehabilitation programs related to the restitution and reparations potential. Machinery should be made available immediately to aid the operations. People, as I have said, who want to work and are desperately in need of shoes and winter clothing, cannot

definition of policies and functions in wait six months for sewing machines and materials. Staffs too become discouraged which reflects in their teaching and administration.

> 5. Provide adequate relief for children. the aged and the hospitalized. It is desirable that ideological interests, especially in the case of children, should be minimized and that welfare standards should predominate. We cannot afford the luxury of duplication or organizational conflict.

# MINUTES OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

HELD MONDAY, JUNE 2ND, 1947, AT THE LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL, BALTIMORE, MD.

THE Annual Business Meeting of the National Conference of Jewish Social Welfare was held at 1:00 P.M., Monday, June 2nd, at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Harry Silver presided. Mr. Silver suggested that the reading of the minutes

of the 1946 business meeting be waived. A motion to this effect was made and passed.

# Report on Registration

Mr. Silver stated that although this business meeting was being held on the second day of the conference there was indication that conference attendance would exceed 800 and that registration would probably be the largest in conference history. An analysis on registration will be prepared after the conference for consideration by the Executive Committee.

# Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. **Silver** gave the balance in the Conference treasury as of May 1st. It was \$6,341.04. The budget adopted by the Executive Committee for the year 1947 is \$12,850. Although some of the items of anticipated income may not reach the figures set in the budget, the large attendance at this conference will probably make it possible to come through the year with a balanced budget.

San Francisco Conference

Mr. Aptekar reported that a three and one-half hour session was held at the National Conference of Social Work in San Francisco on April 16th. This session was prepared by a West Coast Committee chaired by Hyman Kaplan and Harry Sapper. Papers given at this session will be published in the Proceedings issue of the Jewish Social Service Quarterly.

### Solomon Lowenstein Memorial Fund

Miss Frances Taussig announced that a decision was made by the Trustees of the Solomon Lowenstein Fund and approved by the Executive Committee of the Conference to make available \$5,000 for scholarship purposes to students of the Training Bureau for Jewish Communal Service. This money will be administered by the Trustees of the Fund in accordance with usual procedures. Recommendations will be made by the Training Bureau for assistance in the amount of \$500 a year to each of five students. In this manner the Fund will assist 10 students of the Training Bureau over a two-year period.

Miss Taussig read a statement from the **Executive Committee minutes of October** 18, 1942, indicating the original purpose of the Fund. The action of the Trustees at this time is not only in keeping with the original purpose of the Fund but also