

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

Monday-August 16, 1949

Minutes

The first meeting of the newly elected JCRC was held on Monday August 15, 1949 at 2:30 P. M. in the Federation office. Mr. I. B. Finkelstein, Chairman, presiding and the following were present: Messrs. Carl Cobin, Mark Jacoby, Sam Sachs, Morris Levenberg, Isadore Keil, Norman Salus, George Weiner, Charles Lipstein, Harry Zutz, Jerome Trotter, Mrs. Ruth Kolber, Mrs. Simon Waldman, Ben V. Codor and A. Roke Lieberman.

Mr. Isadore Keil, Chairman of the Federation Committee to nominate the members of the JCRC, presented the following slate: Dr. J. M. Barsky, Jr., Herbert Cobin, Philip Cohen, Louis J. Finger, B. A. Finkel, I. B. Finkelstein, (ex-officio), William P. Frank, Hillard Greenstein, Daniel Herrmann, Harry Jacobs, Mark Jacoby, Isadore Keil, Mrs. Harry Kolber, Milton Kutz (ex-officio), Morris Levenberg, Charles Lipstein, Ralph Margolin, James Rosbrow, Samuel Sachs, Norman Salus, Mrs. Harry Sapowith, Adolph Silver, Jerome Trotter, Mrs. Simon Waldman, George Weiner, Harry D. Zutz.

The next item on the agenda was the election of JCRC officers. A committee of three was appointed to bring in a slate of officers before the end of the meeting. The Chairman appointed Mr. Frank, Mr. Lipstein, Mr. Levenberg and Mr. Keil as a committee to bring in nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President and Secretary.

Mr. Finkelstein reported that Mr. Simon R. Krinsky of the "Jewish Voice" who was invited to attend this meeting, phoned immediately prior to the meeting and stated that as his newspaper was going to press he is unable to be present at this meeting. He emphatically denied that his mailing list was used during the last "political issue." With regards to one of his solicitors, Mr. Brodie, approaching the newly-elected Mayor for a statement in the form of an advertisement in the "Jewish Voice," he never authorized Mr. Brodie to solicit this ad from the Mayor and had he succeeded in obtaining it from him, it would not have been published.

A motion was approved that Mr. Krinsky be invited to attend the next meeting of the JCRC to make a statement regarding the policy of the "Jewish Voice," as there is frequent misunderstanding in the general community as to whether the "Jewish Voice" speaks for the Jewish community or is actually a privately-owned enterprise.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of Interfaiths, Inc. Numerous inquiries have been made to the Federation office regarding the purpose of Interfaiths, Inc., and whether it is a duplication of effort. Mr. George Weiner, representing this organization, explained that Interfaiths, Inc., is a non-profit group which was formed by the Shrine Club of Delaware, the Bishop Monaghan Council, Knights of Columbus, and the B'nai B'rith. It was organized as a charitable body. Its intent is not to replace or interfere with any existing organizations doing similar work, but rather to supplement any existing organizations functioning in these areas. He also felt that Interfaiths would help in creating better relationships between the Catholics, Protestants, and Jews.

The first project of Interfaiths, Inc., is the Free Dental Clinic for under-privileged children which would offer its services to any of the children in the community regardless of race, color or creed. These children will be referred

by the recognized welfare agencies, the funds of course would be supplied by Interfaiths, Inc. In addition to this project, if in the future there should be other unmet needs in the community, Interfaiths would try to undertake such projects.

Mr. Weiner further explained that there is some possible overlapping of Interfaiths, Inc. with the Wilmington Round Table of Christians and Jews, but felt that the present project brings it on a wider base and would reach the average man rather than the few community leaders that the Wilmington Round Table reaches.

To the question whether this would conflict with the United Fund of Northern Delaware, Mr. Weiner stated that the Interfaiths Executive Committee believes there is no conflict, as the method of fund-raising is entirely different; the buyer of a chance feels that they are getting something return, i. e., a chance to win an automobile. He further explained that Interfaiths, Inc. selected September 8 to terminate their fund-raising in order not to conflict with any other drives that may take place in the fall.

Mr. Zutz moved that the JCRC send a letter to Interfaiths, Inc. wishing them success in their campaign and effort on behalf of the community. The motion was seconded and passed that such a letter be sent.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers: Chairman, Harry Jacobs; Vice-chairman, George Weiner; Secretary, Mrs. Simon Waldman. A motion was made accepting the nominations, ballots were cast and the above-mentioned were elected for the ensuing term.

A motion was approved that a resolution be spread on the minutes, thanking the Chairman, Mr. I. B. Finkelstein for his past services.

A complaint of discrimination in the purchase of real estate was then discussed. Mr. Bernard Isaacson wanted to purchase a house at 2406 Delaware Avenue from a Mr. Carl W. Harvell, local manager of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, who is the owner of the property, and Arnold Goldsborough, the agent, handling the sale of the property. Mr. Isaacson, when he inquired about this property, was informed that it was not for sale to a Jew and that a Jew could not even inspect the property.

In discussing this problem, Mr. Keil questioned whether Mr. Harvell, because of his position in the community and his Jewish clientele, would sanction such action. Mr. Keil felt that this might be a policy of the real estate agent rather than the owner of the property. After considerable discussion based on a number of experiences presented, it was the consensus of the meeting that frequently it is the real estate agents rather than the owner who set up restrictions in the sale of properties to Jews. Mr. Zutz, speaking on this problem, felt that unless we could hold a meeting to which Mr. Hickman, Chairman of the Real Estate Board, or/and with Mr. Kurtz, very little could be accomplished in solving this problem, as all the other realtors would probably be guided by the action of Mr. Hickman and Mr. Kurtz. He also reported that Mr. Hickman is quite ill and could not be able to meet with anyone until a later date.

It was the consensus of this meeting that the JCRC should not wait until we could meet with Mr. Hickman, but investigate this particular case to determine whether the fault lies with Mr. Goldsborough, the realtor, or the owner. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Chairman appoint a committee to make an

immediate investigation and report back as to their findings.

The Chairman reported that Rabbi Ebner telephoned him that circumcision could not be performed by a Mohel in the Memorial Hospital. It appears that Dr. Stein opposes the use of a Mohel at the Memorial Hospital. Since the JCRC has had considerable experience in a similar situation with the Delaware Hospital it was felt that this problem should be referred to the proper committee for action.

The recent anti-Semitic activities in Germany were discussed. It was reported that numerous U. S. army officers, stationed in Germany have been so indoctrinated with anti-Semitism that they are returning to the United States and carrying on similar activity in this country. A motion was moved, seconded and passed that resolutions be sent to our senators and congressmen stating our stand on this matter.

It was also reported that here of late agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been investigating persons who have been active and interested in the Civil Rights Bills and the Fellowship Commission. Most of the people investigated are Jews and Negroes. It was felt that this situation should be watched closely and appropriate action taken if necessary.

A motion was approved that all meetings in the future begin at 1:30 P. M. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P. M.