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Vet Groups To Be Heard On Giesecking's U. S. Entry

While veterans continued to react with marked coolness to the prospect of an American concert tour by Walter Giesecking, THE JEWISH VETERAN learned that considerable doubt exists as to whether the favorite prodigy of the late Dr. Goebbels' ministry of propaganda will set sail for the U.S. at all.

Dr. David S. Block of Washington, D. C., pressing an inquiry at the State Department on behalf of JWV, was told by H. J. L'Heureaux, Chief of the Visa Division, that

Giesecking has not yet applied for admission to this country. To do this, Mr. L'Heureaux explained, Giesecking would have to file an application with U. S. consular officials in Germany. To date, the State Department officer said, the American consulate has not seen Herr Giesecking.

But should Giesecking come seeking a visa, the U. S. Consulate in Germany has been instructed to refer the application to the visa division in Washington.

And the Visa Division here will not pass upon Giesecking's application, Mr. L'Heureaux said, until veterans organizations and other interested groups have been given an opportunity to state their views on the pianist's admission to this country.

Meanwhile, Giesecking's American managers remained confident that plans to tour the pianist throughout the country would not be impeded. Taking cognizance of objections voiced by JWV and other veterans groups, the entrepreneurs insisted that Giesecking's allegiance to the Nazi regime had been exaggerated by Delbert Clark, former Berlin correspondent of the New York Times. It was a dispatch filed by Mr. Clark more than a year ago that contained the first intimation that Giesecking might seek to pick up a few American dollars by exporting himself to the U. S. concert stage.

The Clark report quoted Rudolf Goette, Giesecking's German manager, as testifying at a denazification hearing that his client "was probably a bit too cooperative with the Nazi regime; more than other world famous artists." This, and other facts reported by Mr. Clark, caused veterans groups to protest vigorously to the State Department against Giesecking's admission to the United States. Visa Division officials at that time told veterans that the issue would be studied.

Renewed interest by veterans groups in a U. S. junket by Giesecking was evoked when a JWV Post learned that the concert hall in its community had been approached to book the pianist for a concert early in 1949. Dr. Block's query of the Visa Division was undertaken after Giesecking's American managers confirmed the information obtained by the JWV Post.

Lehman Accepts Re-appointment

Former New York Governor Herbert H. Lehman has accepted re-appointment as Chairman of JWV's National Advisory Committee, it was announced by National Commander Myer Dorfman.

Governor Lehman agreed to continue in the Committee chairmanship after a meeting with Commander Dorfman and National Executive Director Ben Kaufman. A member of JWV, his services to the organization last year were a great factor in the increased membership. The JWV accorded the JWV signed to...

Times A'Wastin'

To obtain those 1949 dues cards, last year's pasteboards—those dated 1948—must be turned back to National Headquarters.

When? NOW. As soon as you see this.

Why? Because come April 1, 1949, we want to be sure—and you do, too—that every paid-up member receives THE JEWISH VETERAN.

Civil Rights Program Is Stressed At NEC Session

A sharp acceleration of JWV efforts to safeguard civil and human rights and eliminate remaining abuses in the nation's social and economic system was foreshadowed at the December 4-5 meetings of the National Executive Committee in New York.

An assertion by National Commander Myer Dorfman that "this year will determine our future place on the American scene" prefaced 48 hours of intensive, down-to-business action by the NEC on a heavily crowded agenda.

National Commander Honored In Home State



National Commander Myer Dorfman, center is shown receiving a certificate of merit from Minnesota Governor Luther W. Youngdahl at the recent Annual Dinner of JWV's St. Paul Post, of which the Commander is a member. Looking on is A. C. Liverhant, Secretary to the Israel Mission to the United States who was one of the principle speakers at the dinner. The testimonial, in the form of a certificate was presented by the Governor for the people of the State of Minnesota. (For details see story on page 9.)

KKK Fireworks Fizzle as JWV Ignores Hush-Hush Pleas

Nassau County, New York, embraces the kind of homes and residential areas that pajama and lingerie advertisers used to dangle temptingly before the weary eyes of World War II combat soldiers. The County's realtors, never a literary set to hoard figures of speech, have been known to jewel the prose of their brochures with such terms as "garden spot."

It was in this "garden spot"—in the days before the United States and its friends in western Europe learned that you can't cleanse your world of Nazism by ignoring it—that German-American Bundsmen used to enjoy moderately clear sailing. Every once in a while the voyage would be marred by the intrusion of a few World War I veterans from the JWV, and the Bund ship would be forced into a quick dive.

Something like that happened last month. In the same general area where the Bund used to disport, the Ku Klux Klan burned three crosses. Each of the flaming symbols was displayed over signs reading: "On this site a Jewish Center of Synagogue will be built."

A JWV World War II vet, Manie Banner, County Commander of Nassau, heard about the ex-

hibit and communicated the news to Department of New York headquarters. That office assigned Morris Gimpelson, Commander of neighboring Queens County and a former Department anti-discrimination Chairman, to look into the matter.

From a few individuals and organizations in the "garden spot" came anguished murmurs appealing to Gimpelson to keep the incident quiet.

"Just a prank," Gimpelson was told. "To make a fuss about it will promote anti-Semitism."

But the young county commander saw no point in piddling while the crosses burned. He took the position that the flaming "prank," far from posing a problem of concern solely to Jewish residents of Nassau, constituted a direct menace to the entire population of the community. It was on this thesis that he approached all other veterans organizations in the county. A combined veterans group was formed and representations were made to the county's political chieftain, as well as to the District Attorney. Both officials promised action by police and legal authorities.

Gimpelson's next move was to direct approaches to clergymen,

school principals, local newspapers and radio stations. Soon, pulpits and assembly rooms resounded with outraged condemnations of the Klan "prank." Newspaper editorial took up the cry, and radio microphones were opened to spokesmen for the veterans committee. A concerted move was undertaken to strengthen existing inter-faith groups in the community and to develop new ones.

JWV, re-writing the history of its old-timers' counter-blows at Bund wowsers, organized mobile squads to patrol the sites of the cross burnings during those hours when regular police patrols were off duty. The first to decry these sentry squads were the same individuals and groups who had uttered the small, shrill warnings of "shah, shah" when Gimpelson first initiated his program.

Nevertheless, JWV maintained its watchfulness and there have been no recurrences of the incidents.

Even more important, fresh impetus has been lent to the advancement of inter-faith relations in Nassau County. Existing groups have been re-vitalized, and new ones are coming into being.

Nassau might be on the way towards earning that "garden spot" label after all.

Complete Text of Commander Dorfman's NEC Report on Page 2

A warning that infringements of human and civil rights were on the rise, despite recent reassurances by other organizations to the contrary, spurred JWV's executive body into quick action on these recommendations from lower echelons:

Opposition to any proposal that would give U. S. recognition or economic aid to Franco Spain.

Thorough investigations by the incoming Congress and Senate of the Ilse Koch commutation and all other phases of the U. S. denazification program.

A complete shakeup of the House un-American Activities Committee as now constituted, with emphasis on positive contributions such a body should make in checking subversive activities in the extreme right, as well as in the left, and in safeguarding guarantees of the Bill of Rights.

A sharp JWV protest against institution of Congressman John Rankin, the Mississippi Mud-slinger, as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, a post in which he would exercise jurisdiction over veterans affairs.

Full Texts of Resolutions Are Reprinted Elsewhere in This Issue

All-out JWV backing for adoption of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Housing bill; an effort to amend the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 so as to liberalize entrance eligibility dates and provide for the admission of 5,000 displaced Jews now residing in Shanghai, China; and renewed activity to gain objectives of the JWV program on Israel were also given swift action by the NEC.

Quiet, intent NEC men heard a dismaying account of recent upsurges in anti-Semitic activity in a report read by Lawrence Gross of New York, Department anti-discrimination chairman. Quoting from statistics compiled by Bruno Frankel of New York, a past NEC member, Gross contended that anti-Semitism, far from abating since the end of World War II, was currently better financed and organized than at any time in recent American history. He named at least eight defamatory publications that now enjoy national circulations running into the tens of thousands and went on to urge a city-by-city, town-by-town organization of JWV committees to

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