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Brotherhood Week To Be Observed By JWV Units

Preliminary reports reaching National Headquarters as this issue of THE JEWISH VETERAN went to press spelled out a record participation by JWV units throughout the country in the 1949 observance of National Brotherhood Week.

National Commander Dorfman, who is to set out on a month-long tour of JWV Posts in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Texas and Florida, was expected to dwell on the Brotherhood theme in public addresses he has scheduled in eight major cities. He indicated he would lay emphasis on the need for year-round adherence to the principle underlying the annual event fostered by the National Conference of Christians and Jews to further the nation's unity.

A similar theme was reflected in program plans forwarded to National Headquarters by Posts, Counties and Departments in every section of the country. A number of units were preparing to honor Christian and Jewish individuals in local communities for outstanding contributions to interfaith unity in 1948. Hundreds of Posts reported plans for joint meetings with Catholic and Protestant veterans of other organizations.

In some communities, JWV units sponsored essay and oratorical contests and posted prizes for winning school-age youngsters. Still other JWV groups reported ambitious programs ranging from joint veterans parades to public rallies and meetings with elected local and Federal officials scheduled to participate.

Units of JWV's National Ladies Auxiliary, which annually serve welfare and recreational needs of a total of more than 70,000 hospitalized veterans, also announced special programs for Brotherhood Week. As in their year-round efforts, the Auxiliary groups were expected to stimulate community-wide participation in special hospital programs scheduled for the annual observance.

Prefacing a series of appeals for national unity he contemplates in public talks during Brotherhood Week, National Commander Dorfman announced he would begin his four-state tour with an appearance at the annual Good Will dinner of the Pittsburgh Post. From Pittsburgh, he is to proceed to Springfield, Ill., for the annual pilgrimage to Lincoln's Tomb in that city. Recently cited by Gov. Luther Youngdahl of Minnesota for outstanding community services in his home city of St. Paul, Commander Dorfman is known to hold deep-seated feelings on the need for a continuous program to foster amity and cooperation among all racial and religious groups in the national population. A major objective of his forthcoming tour, it was understood, is the expression of this feeling on all occasions affording an opportunity for him to meet with representatives of other veterans groups.

NEC Session In Atlanta

The next meeting of the NEC will take place in Atlanta, Georgia on March 26 and 27th, concurrently the National Constitutional Convention will be held in Atlanta on March 24th and 25th, and the National Policy Committee which usually meets before each NEC session will convene in the Southern City on March 23rd. Featured at this forthcoming NEC Meeting will be the appearance of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver. (For full details see page 10 this issue.)

Bradley To Address National Dinner

Gen. Omar N. Bradley, U. S. Army Chief of Staff, will be the honored guest at the 1949 New York campaign dinner of JWV, it was announced by National Commander Myer Dorfman. The dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, the eve of Army Day, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Major figures of government, the armed services, veterans groups and Jewish organizations are expected to join in the tribute to Gen. Bradley.

JWV Protest Pays-Off As Giesecking Leaves U.S.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK—JWV's efforts to exclude German pianist, Walter Giesecking, from American concert halls, ended, with dramatic suddenness, here, last week, when, less than two hours before he was to take the stage at Carnegie Hall, the musician cancelled his opening recital and announced he would start a quick return trip to Germany. Giesecking's decision was impelled by agents of the United States immigration service, who detained him on the day of his scheduled concert, after an investigation at Immigration Bureau Headquarters in New York.

Although the pianist had been granted a visa to this country by the U.S. consulate in Paris the preceding week,

immigration officials, responding to vigorous protests by JWV and other groups, decided to investigate charges that he had turned his music to the service of the "Hitler Regime" in Germany. Ben Kaufman, National Executive Director, was among the first to appear at the inquiry. He was followed by a delegation from JWV's David L. Fannick Post of Waterbury, Conn., which bore detailed record of Giesecking's wartime career. It was the Fannick Post which alerted JWV's National Headquarters nearly two years ago, to efforts of Giesecking's American management to bring the pianist to this country. The information was turned over to Bernard Weitzer, JWV's Washington legislative Representative, who brought the matter to the attention of the State Department's visa division, while recording JWV's objections to the granting of a visa. Meanwhile, JWV Posts throughout the country were warned by National Headquarters to be on the alert for Giesecking's bookings by local concert halls and managements. Posts were also directed to convey this information to other veteran groups. At the time, the State Department informed Mr. Weitzer it would study the advisability of admitting Giesecking to the U.S.

The issue reached a climactic point early last month, when Mr. Weitzer was informed by the State Department that Giesecking had applied for a visa through the U.S. Consular Office in Paris. Previously, the State Department, on Mr. Weitzer's request, had cabled its Consulates in Germany asking them to forward any request for a Giesecking visa, to Washington. The pianist's managers, apparently informed of this move, transferred their activities to Paris, and delayed submission of a visa application until some ten days before Giesecking was scheduled to make his first appearance at Carnegie Hall. Presumably, they hoped to catch protesting groups in the U.S. by surprise. Upon disclosure by the State Department of the Paris action, Mr. Weitzer led a group of six organization representatives in a visit to H. J. L'Heureaux, Chief of the Visa Division. Mr. L'Heureux was told by the delegation that Giesecking's admission to this country would be as repugnant to the U.S. liberal groups as

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"Operation Help"—Mission Completed



Veteran Edgar Van Leuvan, his wife and their 7 children, dig into the food provided for them by Long Island City Post #110. The evicted air force veteran and his family pictured with Post Commander Walter Kaner, were housed in a hotel suite temporarily before being moved into a new apartment with the help of the Long Island City Post.

"Operation Help" Supplies Home For Evicted Vet And Family

"They needed help—so we helped them." That is the brief, to-the-point explanation given by Walter Kaner, Commander of Long Island City Post 110, as he told his post came to the aid of an evicted veteran's family, sheltered them, fed them, clothed them, secured an apartment, raised funds in their behalf, and brought renewed hope to an Air Force veteran, his wife and 7 children.

This lesson of coming to the aid of one's neighbor and its example of inter-faith co-operation resulted in widespread pictures and stores in New York City newspapers and broadcasts over many radio stations.

It began when Kaner saw a picture of the evicted family on the front page of a newspaper. The family, Edgar Van Leuvan, 32-year old unemployed Air Force veteran, his wife, Alberta, and their 7 children, ranging from 8 years to 8 months, had been evicted onto the street from their Long Island City home. The photo of the destitute family stuck in Kaner's mind.

He called the newspaper, informed them Long Island City Post 110 would shelter the family in their three-story post headquarters. The paper was enthusiastic. Meanwhile, however, the evicted family moved into the home of a friend for the night. The next day the newspaper called to say the family would take advantage of the post's offer. While this was going on Kaner called a quick conference with Ken Hirschman, senior vice-commander, and Louis Frankel, junior vice-commander. Operation Help then really swung into action.

Instead of moving the family into their post headquarters, Post 110 rented a 3-room suite at a New York hotel. The family was to move in at 9:30 the next evening. The time arrived but the family failed to appear. Reached by phone, Mrs. Van Leuvan was in tears: "My children have nothing to wear."

Kaner, Hirschman and Frankel dashed from the hotel lobby where they were waiting for the family and drove to the home

where the Van Leuvals had spent the night. Clothes were secured, baskets of food were bought, and the family brought to the hotel suite. The children, tired, hungry, were fed and in no time were asleep.

The next day Post 110 organized to step-up its help. Kaner set to work placing several dozen calls to secure an apartment and to secure Department of Welfare aid for the family; Frankel made visits to clothing manufacturers whom he knew, Hirschman rounded up food from local merchants, Post Chief of Staff Louis Loffmin set out to raise funds for the family. The Ladies Auxiliary of Post 110, of which Doris Hirschman is president, were just as busy raising funds and securing food.

Before the day was through a four-room apartment was found for the family with the help of the Department of New York, more than \$200 worth of girls' dresses, boys' suits, undergarments, as well as clothes for Mr. and Mrs. Van Leuvan were ob-

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