

JEWISH VETERAN

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Convention Atmosphere Businesslike, Diligent

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.—Ideal weather here gave delegates to the fifty-fourth Encampment ample opportunity to acquire a midsummer tan, but Post representatives, predominantly World War II men, were credited by JWV old timers with conducting one of the most business-like conventions in the organization's history.

Highlights of the Encampment were:

A major policy address on unification of the armed forces by Secretary of the Army Gordon Gray.

A surprise appearance at the convention by the dean of the motion picture industry, Louis B. Mayer.

A slashing attack by Harry N. Rosenfield, a member of the Displaced Persons Commission, on Senate arguments against liberalization of the Displaced Persons Law.

Army Secretary Gray, speaking from the National Commander's banquet to a nationwide radio audience over the Columbia System, made it plain that differing points of view between the armed services had no bearing on the readiness of the national defense establishment to safeguard this country's security.

Asserting that "economy was an important consideration in the armed forces unification program," Mr. Gray went on to stress that "we must have the strongest Army possible, the strongest possible Navy, including its fleet air arm and the Marine Corps, and the strongest Air Force our resources will allow."

Mr. Gray said that the Army stands behind "and unreservedly supports" the President and Defense Secretary Louis Johnson in their unification aims and he expressed confidence "that under the leadership of these men America can and will develop the defense it needs."

(Addresses by Louis B. Mayer and Harry N. Rosenfield are reported in detail elsewhere in this issue).

Judging by attendance at committee meetings and regular sessions of the Encampment, JWV Posts which paid the expenses of their delegates received full value for their money. Older JWV men who have attended ten or more Encampments commented frequently on the diligence displayed by the organization's younger generation. On Saturday night, October 22, for example, the National Commander's banquet was followed by a military ball, which could have been expected to occupy the younger JWV men to the exclusion of all business aspects of the convention. Yet when it was announced that the Encampment would go into session at midnight Saturday in an effort to clear a number of important items on the agenda, delegates packed the convention hall on

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Army Secretary Addresses Encampment



GORDON GRAY

JWV Helps Sponsor "Gift to Yank" Show

JWV is being named on the air as one of three national veterans organizations cooperating with Eddie Cantor's annual "Give a Gift to a Yank Who Gave program," on the Eversharp program "Take It or Leave It."

The program is broadcast over the National Broadcasting Company network Sunday nights at 10:00 p. m., EST.

Holtz of Mass. Elected As '49-'50 National Commander

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.—Jackson J. Holtz, 42-year-old Boston attorney, is JWV's National Commander for 1949-50. He was elected to the organization's highest office by acclamation after his opponent, Reuben B. Smith of New York, withdrew from the contest.

In succeeding Myer Dorfman, Holtz is the first veteran with War II service exclusively to head the nation's oldest active veterans organization. He took office pledging a continuation of JWV's efforts in support of civil rights legisla-

tion, national defense, the maintenance of Israel's independence and expansion of benefits to veterans and their dependents "in all areas where the needs of ex-servicemen and those related to them continue to exist."

A former assistant United States Attorney General, Holtz also served in the Massachusetts State legislature and has held office in a number of national and community Jewish organizations. He was an intelligence officer in the Army Ordnance Department during World War II and was awarded the Commendation ribbon by the Chief of Ordnance.

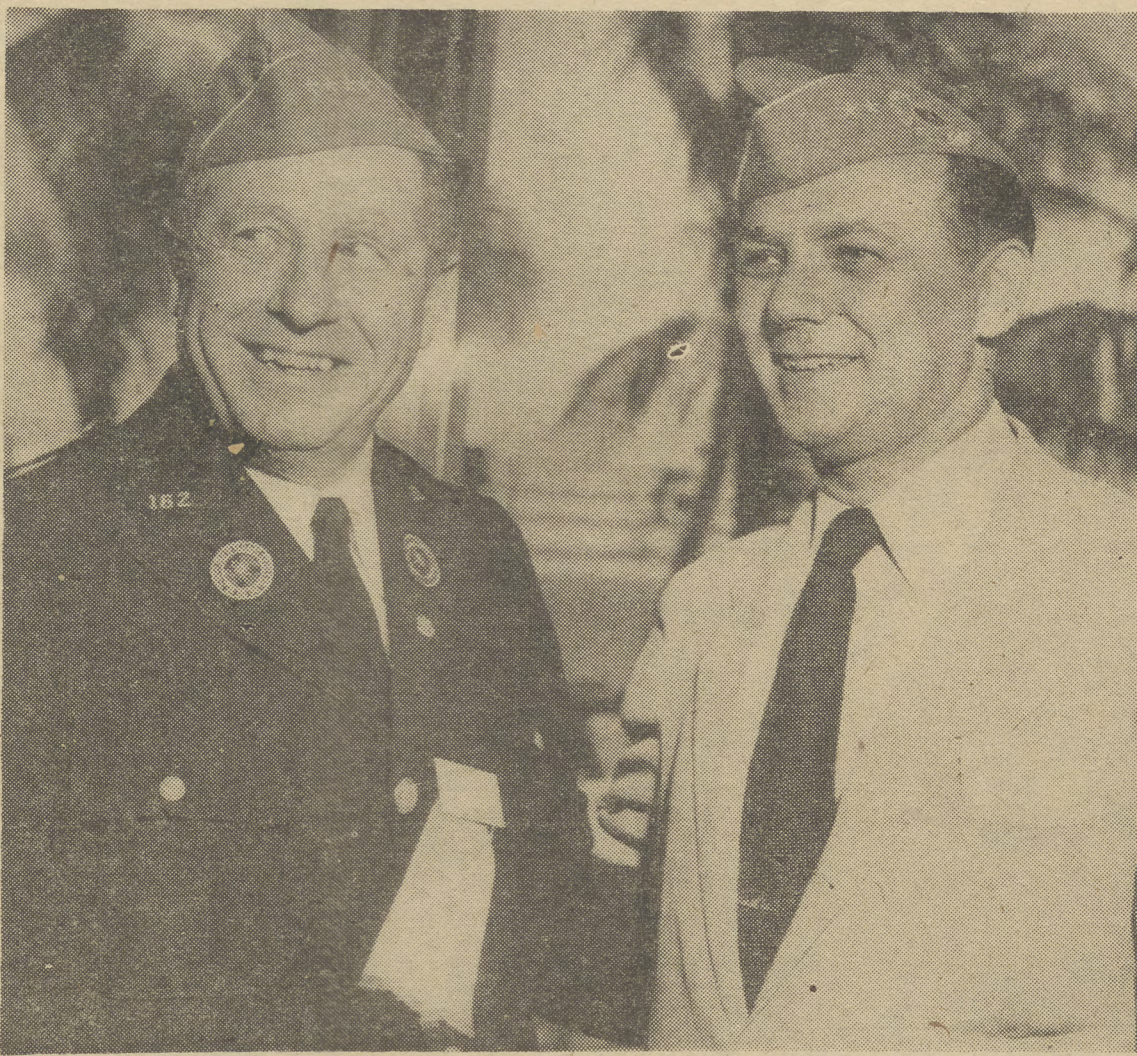
Stressing the need for prompt Congressional action on the long delayed civil rights issue, Holtz cited figures of 125,000 children born daily in countries populated by colored races and went on to make the point that "these tremendous new generations are rising in the midst of an ideological war which can shape their thinking in the years to come." America, he went on, can gain an advantage in this silent conflict, "if we act quickly and resolutely to wipe out discrimination here."

Elected National Vice-Commanders were:

First Region, Silas Jacobson of Portland, Me.; Second Region, Saul Gold of New York; Third Region, William Unger of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Fourth Region, Hyman H. Kout of Miami Beach, Fla.; Fifth Region, Percy Friedlander of Louisville, Ky.; Sixth Region, Harry J. Pells of Denver, Colo., and Seventh Region, Harold M. Topletz of Dallas, Tex.

Mrs. Anne R. Abelow of Brooklyn, N. Y., was elected President of the National Ladies Auxiliary.

Take It Jackson



Outgoing National Commander Myer Dorfman of St. Paul, Minn., shown turning over the reins of JWV to his successor, Jackson J. Holtz of Boston, Mass., who was elected National Commander by acclamation at the recent National Convention in Miami Beach, Fla.

L. B. MAYER VISIT STIRS CONVENTION

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.—What it takes to capture an audience was demonstrated at JWV's fifty-fourth Encampment by the master showman whose proteges have been drawing cheers from moviegoers for more than a quarter of a century.

As adeptly as any of the players he has brought to motion picture stardom, Louis B. Mayer, head of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, stole the Encampment show with a surprise visit to the National Commander's banquet and the even more unexpected announcement that he hoped to address the convention before delegates concluded their business.

No more than a dozen persons among the more than 550 who jammed the scene of the National Commander's banquet were aware of Mr. Mayer's presence at the head table when PNC Frederick S. Harris, presiding as toastmaster, rose to introduce him. The motion picture leader's attendance at the dinner had come about through a last-minute personal

invitation extended by his long-time friend, Past National Commander Julius Klein.

Responding to PNC Harris' introduction, Mr. Mayer said he was "proud and humble to stand among this gathering of American heroes, including our country's soldiers of Jewish faith." He praised JWV's Americanism program and added, "We in the motion picture industry are also confronted with many problems in our efforts to advance American ideals." Then came his surprise announcement: "With your permission, I should like to talk these problems over with you at your convention session tomorrow."

With no specific time announced for Mr. Mayer's appearance before the last day's session of the Encampment, delegates filled the convention hall lobby well in advance of the chairman's call to order.

To the applause of more than 1,500 JWV men and women, he found his way to the convention

dais accompanied by Gen. Klein and Joseph Solomonow, Department Commander of California, who introduced him to the delegates.

In a thirty-five-minute talk that touched off frequent bursts of applause, Mr. Mayer lashed out at Communism as "a ruthless force manned by cunning men who are working twenty-four hours a day to undermine American liberties and the dignity of the individual." He told of a conversation he had held with a motion picture writer who became the object of a Congressional inquiry on grounds of Communist activity in the movie industry. The writer explained his association with Communist movements by referring to his childhood in New York's east side where, he said, he had grown up in an atmosphere of poverty and lack of opportunity for any form of social or economic advancement.

"My answer to this," Mr. Mayer told the JWV delegates in quiet,

NEC To Meet In Atlantic City

The National Executive Committee will meet in Atlantic City, N. J., November 26 and 27, it was announced by National Headquarters. A busy agenda is expected to draw maximum attendance. PNC Myer Dorfman, elected Chairman of the NEC at the fifty-fourth Encampment, will preside.

Surprise Visitor To Convention



L. B. MAYER

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