

The Jewish Veteran

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Release WWI Funds JWV Asks Kennedy

JWV has urged President Kennedy to release insurance reserves for World War I policy holders in the form of an immediate dividend.

The reserves are normally kept until the maturity of a policy and provide a "termination" dividend to the policy holder.

In a letter to President Kennedy by National Executive Director of JWV, Joseph F. Barr, JWV urged that an "immediate payment of part of this reserve to the insured, himself, in the form of a special dividend, would be of untold benefit to the World War I group now averaging over 66 years of age.

"Some fifteen percent of these policies," Mr. Barr pointed out, "are another form of term insurance and the cost is so great that many of these men stretch their efforts beyond the breaking point to meet the cost. A special dividend could be used by these men to good purpose."

Mr. Barr cited as precedent three such dividends in the U. S. Government Life Insurance Program and two under the National Service Life Insurance Program.

Mr. Barr commended President Kennedy for his statement concerning instructions to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs as to payment of dividends on U. S. Government Life Insurance and National Service Life Insurance.

JWV Criticized On Group Libel

National Executive Director Joseph F. Barr has responded to a column by Boris Smolar of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on the subject of group libel.

Mr. Smolar's column on the subject is reprinted below with Mr. Barr's answer.

It is interesting to point out that Mr. Smolar was kind enough to quickly answer JWV's correspondence and intends to allow a rebuttal that will be carried by JTA.

Dear Mr. Smolar:

I have just finished reading your article captioned "JWV Favors Group Libel Legislation."

The last paragraph states that with one exception, viz., JWV, all other national Jewish groups oppose such legislation. The next sentence reads, "Why the Jewish War Veterans should feel more expert on group libel law than any of the more important Jewish organizations is difficult to understand."

May I ask how you measure the relative importance of organizations. Is it by virtue of program or by the size or affluence of the membership; on the basis of things accomplished? Is what the organization could, if properly supported, do toward the common objectives of the civic defense groups a valid criteria?

May I, as a consistent reader and admirer of your column, which to my knowledge has always been both fair and objective, call your attention to the following:

The bugaboo that group libel legislation, even if properly framed, would do more harm than good has not, in our

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NEC Gubow Becomes U.S. District Attorney

The United States Senate has confirmed the nomination of Lawrence Gubow, the Jewish War Veterans National Executive Committee member who gained national prominence by smashing housing discrimination last year in Grosse Pointe, Michigan to be a U. S. District Attorney.

Gubow, who has served as JWV Department Commander for Michigan, had the distinction of being one of the first three U. S. Attorneys nominated by President Kennedy. He will serve the area of Eastern Michigan, one of the nation's leading industrial regions.

An Army captain during World War Two, Gubow commanded an infantry company of the 45th Division. He was wounded in action in Alsace and captured by the Germans. He survived incarceration in a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp and holds a number of decorations.

The Detroit veteran, active in JWV in post-war years, gained distinction as a lawyer. In 1953 he was appointed investigator for the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commissioner. His services were such that in 1956 Governor G. Mennen Williams named him Commissioner of the State unit.

Last year Gubow received national recognition for his investigation and exposure of the notorious "point system" used to screen prospective home

An Editorial

Nein On Unrein

Officially, the case of Martin Unrein, the ex-Nazi general employed by the U. S. Army in West Germany is "closed" and "a recommendation that no further action be taken . . . was approved by the Commanding General." But the memory lingers on and the intervention of the Jewish War Veterans has attracted national attention to the Defense Department's attempt to whitewash a Hitlerite general who recently made remarks slurring the 6,000,000 Jewish victims of the Nazi regime.

Unrein is employed as supervisor of civilian labor by the U. S. Army at the Dachau installation, site of the notorious concentration camp. Conducting a British dignitary on a tour of the concentration camp site, Unrein sought to minimize Nazi atrocities, debunk the use of gas chambers, and said "it would have been impossible to burn six million Jews . . . unless it had begun in 1906." He said "these 'gas ovens' were built by German prisoners after the war."

As a result of J.W.V. protest following exposure of the incident in the British press, the U. S. Defense Department investigated. But it finally "cleared" Unrein, retaining him as an American employe. A letter to J.W.V. from Francis X. Plant, special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army, was a long-delayed apology for Unrein. The J.W.V. has replied to Mr. Plant and action is continuing the fight being widely reported in Jewish newspapers and periodicals and other sections of the press and radio.

It is interesting that the official recalcitrance on Unrein occurred at a time when the arrest of a Nazi S.S. Corps scientist who invented the notorious "gas vans" in which Jews were murdered took place in

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Strength in Numbers Campaign Launched

JWV fights back . . . with accent on action.

We must now mobilize others to join with us and take greater and more forceful action. This is the purpose of JWV's National "Strength in Numbers" 65th Anniversary Membership Drive, which will be kicked off on Sunday, March 12.

There will be plenty of action! Plenty of excitement and an abundance of beautiful and expensive incentive prizes. Every member is eligible to win prizes by simply signing up new members. The more signed . . . the bigger and better the prize! Prizes will be awarded to every member signing five or more new members. So get busy now . . . ask your friends, your neighbors and your relatives to join, and win one of the following:

1. Sign from 5 to 9 New Members and Receive Choice of:

Zippo Deluxe Lighter.
Parker Jotter Pen.

2. Sign from 10 to 19 New Members and Receive Choice of:

Two-Sum 2 Pc. Set by Coach, key holder and bill clip.

Pride-Mark Master Tool Set.
3. Sign from 20 to 29 New Members and Receive Choice of:

Desk Travel Alarm Clock.
Stainless Steel Steak Knife Set.

4. Sign from 30 to 49 New Members and Receive Choice of:

Ronson Lighter Set — lighter and matching cigarette urn.
Exec-Traveler Overnight Luggage.

5. Sign from 50 to 74 New Members and Receive Choice of:

Brand Name Watch.
8 MM Kodak Movie Camera.

6. Sign from 75 to 100 New Members and Receive Choice of:

Brand Name Transister Radio
35 MM Camera.

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Farbstein Inserts Newsletter In Record

Congressman Farbstein (D.-N.Y.) greatly impressed by JWV's Newsletter entitled "Sino-Soviet Relations" has placed it in the Congressional Record.

JWV is reprinting copies of this insertion with Farbstein's opening remarks which are quite favorable to JWV and making it available to Posts throughout the country.

buyers in Grosse Pointe, Mich. It restricted Jews from purchasing homes of their choice. Gubow invoked a ruling that prohibits real estate brokers from discriminating on a basis of religion. The action won acclaim not only from Government quarters but also from civic and church groups and even some non-Jewish Grosse Pointe residents who were against the rigid anti-Jewish policies of the real estate interests.

A national television news feature reported on what was done by Gubow to break down the discriminatory barriers in Grosse Pointe as an example of progress toward elimination in America of religious and racial bigotry.

While Gubow has been mainly active in JWV, and an NEC member, he is also a leader in other Jewish groups. For the past two years he has served as treasurer of the Jewish Community Council of Detroit. He is a member of the Community Council's executive and is assigned to the community relations committee. He is on the Board of the Jewish National Fund and a member of the Allied Jewish Campaign.

Gubow's service as JWV Department Commander was with distinction as he achieved a high level of community support and cooperation with other veterans' group.

He is married and has three children.

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The Commander Reports

By

I. L. Feuer

National Commander

Before becoming your National Commander, I pledged myself to do all in my power to promote JWV membership. Membership is our life's blood. Without sufficient numbers joining our ranks, we stand to lose everything we have fought for since our formation in 1896.

If we are to remain true to the standards set by our forbearers on that momentous occasion back in March, 1896, then we must inspire every Jewish veteran to join our ranks.

It is for this reason that I am devoting a great deal of my time and energy to the National Commanders Membership Campaign now underway. Frankly, I am gratified by the initial results and I hope that we will soon be able to report a substantial increase in our membership rolls.

Unfortunately, too few of our leaders understand the real ramifications, the true meaning behind membership recruitment.

Our organization has always had a kind of destiny and all of our works and programs are designed to fulfill that destiny.

We look to the day when the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., as we know it, will one day reach extinction. This may seem a startling pronouncement, for what, after all, were we founded for but to fight the battle of the Jew whenever unjustly assailed.

Perhaps there will come a time in the life-time of our children's children or beyond, when the Jews will not be unjustly assailed. At that time there will

be no need for the Jewish War Veterans. We will have fulfilled our destiny, but while our enemies still plague us, while the hate mongers and bigots deride our people, while prejudice rears its ugliness, then we must be an instrument of vast power and influence.

Our record in fighting anti-Semitism is second to none in the world. We have been effective on many many occasions.

Fortunately, our office is located in the nation's capital where our staff stands poised to render service through the instruments of democracy. We are quick to make our thoughts known to members of Congress, to the President, to the various persons who administer our laws and our affairs.

Our staff is trained to translate into action what the organization declares as policy.

But an organization based upon mass membership cannot survive if it depends solely on its brain and does not have the motor capability to carry out the commands of this brain.

Membership is our motorability. We need men in the ranks. We need leaders. We need hands and minds to carry out the programs on the local level, people to speak for us, people to act for us, people to inspire others on the true meaning of our purpose.

Once we understand this, we then can inspire others into active participation in our cause.

I hope and pray that this year, more than any other, we can swell our membership ranks to an all-time high.

What Of The Records?

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West Germany. Ironically, the West German authorities inadvertently revealed that Washington officialdom has, in effect, systematically been lax and derelict on ferreting out vicious Nazi criminals who may still be prosecuted before the Bonn statute of limitations expires.

The "gas van" inventor, Harry Wentrutt, felt so secure that he was living openly in Bavaria under his own name when arrested. Had it not been for Bonn's reaction to the swastika plague of early 1960, Wentrutt would never have been apprehended. Erwin Schuele, head of the Central West German War Crimes Investigation Agency, came to Washington after the swastika outbreak to search captured Nazi archives. These vital records, including dossiers of the S.S. Corps, were stored here and neglected after World War Two. The data on Wentrutt even showed that he was promoted by the S.S. for his work in perfecting the brutally efficient mobile death trucks into which so many Jews were herded. Why were these records ignored by the U. S. Government archivists? Why was it necessary for a West German to come to Washington to turn up evidence that should have been acted upon years ago?

It is symptomatic of a growing indifference to the crimes of the Nazis, an apathy that is being exploited by the Communists in their campaign to undermine N.A.T.O. by portraying West Germany as a revanchist Nazi state. It is necessary that residual Nazism be militantly opposed not only by Bonn but also by Washington.

This is mandatory not only to deflate Communist propaganda's gross exaggeration but also because the poisonous virus of Nazism must be totally eliminated if democracy is to remain healthy.

The Israeli capture of Adolf Eichmann, head of the Gestapo's "Jewish Division" has caused great worry in West Germany. There is fear that the trial, attended by worldwide publicity, will link the names of present-day officials of the West German Government with the crimes of Nazism. What will come out about the Nazi role of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's closest advisor, Dr. Hans Globke? Dr. Globke, the Chancellor's State Secretary, has been under attack by Adenauer's political opponents. This is an election year in West Germany.

Dr. Globke is charged with writing portions of the Nuremberg laws, described as "commentaries," as one of Hitler's legal experts. He claims today he used phrasing designed "to help" the Jews because, he says, he adored his Jewish "friends." Be that as it may, part of the legal authority for Eichmann's mass murders came from the Nuremberg laws. It is inevitable that a detailed legal examination of how Jews were "legally" killed will occur because Dr. Servatius, Eichmann's attorney, already claims that his client was only a functionary merely doing his duty based on orders and laws.

The mass crimes could not have been the sole responsibility of Eichmann, as bloody as his key job was. A whole system made it possible. Anyone involved in that system, especially its theoreticians and top men, share in the guilt.

There are disquieting reports that Dr. Adenauer has asked the Israel Government to try to keep the name of Globke and others in the Bonn regime out of the trial. A hint is reported that this might affect the flow of German reparations because of "public opinion" in West Germany. The West Germans apparently do not want to be reminded of the Nazi era.

We are certain that Israel will conduct a trial in the finest legal tradition and all the facts will come out. The trial will serve to prod the conscience and memories of a world that would like to conveniently forget the fate of European Jewry.

German bookshops, we are told, refuse to display new books on Eichmann. This is all the more reason to focus the spotlight of publicity on the enormity of what took place. The sacrifices of American fighting men in World War II, Jew and non-Jew, would be mocked if the evils they defeated are to be swept under the carpet of history.

Capitol Corridors



by Felix Putterman

National Legislative Director

"A new standard of excellence in education—and the availability of such excellence to all who are willing and able to pursue it." In these words President Kennedy set out the goals of his proposals for Federal Aid to education.

While there is an immediate priority for economic anti-recession pump-priming legislation, few here in Washington would argue with the premise that, in the long run, action by the Congress on aid to education may be this country's most important investment in the future.

Last August JWV went on record as endorsing the principle of Federal school aid programs for both school construction and teachers' salaries. By committing ourselves in effect, we, have told the country at large that this is a program in which each of us has a substantial stake.

There is little real controversy over the existence of the need for Federal aid. True, there are always those who resent such programs as being an invasion of states' rights and their colleagues whose understanding of fiscal problems begin and end with the sanctity of their own bank accounts. Unfortunately these are the lesser of the special interests that threaten the passage of school aid legislation during this session of the Congress. In proposing legislation, President Kennedy has taken aim squarely down dead center into the middle of conflicting interests with powerful spokesmen both in and out of political life.

Each of the competing special interest groups are great proponents of Federal aid to education—with a little special purpose twist in this game. These curve ball pitchers were preparing for a hectic season long before the President threw out the first ball. In order for the national interest to win the Con-

gress must keep its eye on the ball—our unmet educational needs.

The crossfire from competing groups began immediately after the President's special message on education was sent to the Congress on February 20th. First there is the "unfair" denial of public funds to parochial schools and the court proposition that Federal moneys will be made available through the scholarship program to colleges operated or sponsored by religious groups. Then there are many of us who are unhappy with the neglect to insist on racial desegregation in the various facets of the proposed legislation. On the other hand, Senator Harry Flood Byrd applied some sort of test or measurement for the proposed program and came up with the discovery that the enactment of Kennedy's recommendations would provide a cover for the infiltration of Southern white school systems by some other folks who pay Federal taxes below the Mason and Dixon Line. And so each group is tolling its own bell and blowing its own horns in order to swing the parade down its own street before its own special people. So much loving care may smother school aid to death!

This may very well be the first opportunity afforded us to make the sacrifices called for by the President in his challenging Inaugural Address. It was in response to this call that the National Commander communicated to the

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