

The Jewish Veteran

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SELLOUT INDICATED FOR CONVENTION IN DETROIT

JWV Participates In NCRAC Plenary Conf.

The Jewish War Veterans participated in the four-day annual plenary session of the National Community Relations Advisory Council in June in Cincinnati, Ohio. Delegates, presenting six national Jewish religious and civic bodies, and 62 Jewish community councils heard Jewish leaders present their views on the future of the Jewish community on the American scene.

Among the many subjects discussed, one of the more meaningful for JWV members was the item on the impact of the radical right. Other actions were on statements on censorship, federal aid to education, Sunday closing laws, peace in the Middle East, immigration, and Jews in the Soviet Union.

A resolution adopted by the Conference warned that "the ultra-right must be regarded as threatening to our democratic institutions and social gains." It expressed the conviction, however, that "they and their methods are firmly rejected by an overwhelming major-

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JWV Voices Dissent On NCRAC Statement

The Jewish War Veterans once again emphasized its position on group libel, pornographic and obscene literature etc., and on the matters proposed to be excluded from the mails during consideration of Guidelines and Guiding Principles on Censorship at the 19th plenary conference of the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

In 1961, JWV vetoed issuance of an NCRAC statement on the ground that it could not agree with the extreme civil liberties position taken by the plenum. This year, it expressed disagreement with certain major issues, but did not oppose issuance of an NCRAC statement.

JWV asserted the necessity of a group libel statute and its constitutionality if enacted. It held, as a minority of one, that a statute can be written which can legally give an administrative department, such as the Post Office Department, authority to keep such matters out of the mails. Once again, JWV was alone in its views on the right of hate mongers to use of private facilities and indeed on use of public facilities as a forum to spout their venom.

In a statement given to the Jewish Veteran, National Executive Director Joseph F. Barr stated that the differences stem from JWV's refusal to adopt Voltaire's shebboloth.

He further stated that "it may be now that the Supreme Court has spoken and adopted the doctrine of the absolute in the Regent's prayer issue, we may find some allies since, in the final analysis, the two issues do have a close relationship.

Flow Of Reservations Heavy—Reserve Now

Advance reservations for the 67th annual national convention in Detroit from August 26 to September 2 indicate a "sell-out" and members of JWV who have not done so are urged to make their reservations immediately.

Planned to appeal to the taste of delegates are a host of well-planned programs, stimulating speakers and provocative meetings. Negotiations are nearly completed to bring to the convention a roster of speakers of unparalleled fame and prominence.

Henry Littman, chairman of the special Convention Program Souvenir Book, which is being prepared, urges members to utilize the ad book to send their New Year's greetings to their friends in JWV. He added that a \$1 contribution per member to the ad book would help defray the cost of the convention and assure a financially successful venture. Members were also urged to solicit commercial ads. Rates are as follows: Complimentary ad, \$25; ¼ page, \$75; ½ page, \$85; ¾ page, \$115; full page, \$200; full-size page, \$350; full gold page, \$500; inside front cover, \$500; inside back cover, \$500 and back cover, \$600.

A special children's program is also being planned, including tours to Canada, the Ford factory, a boat cruise, visit to Detroit Zoological Park, movies, entertainment and a Jewish Community Center Fun Day.

One of the highlights of the convention will be a Convention Parade on Wednesday, August 29, which will, in addition to JWV, include marching units from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other organizations.

The Sheraton Cadillac and Statler Hilton Hotels, which will host the JWV and JWVA conventions, are ideally located in downtown Detroit. All hotel rooms are air-conditioned and are beautifully and comfortably furnished.

The specially low-priced package deal, available to all delegates, contains the following extras, all free of charge:

Early Bird Night and refreshments.
"Las Vegas Nite."

Detroit-Chicago night baseball game (1st 500 plan registrants only).
Special movie and/or dance.

National President's Luncheon (for all women registrants who are not members of Posts).

National Commander's Banquet (for Post members).

Moonlight Cruise to Bob-Lo Island, Canada.

Tour No. 1—Canada and Detroit Area.

Tour No. 2—Ford Motor Co.; Greenfield Village and JWV Memorial Home.

Tour No. 3 — Detroit Arsenal and Chrysler Missile Plant.

Visit to Michigan State Fair.
Free chance to win a 1962 Automobile.

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LATE NEWS FLASH

JWV Stops Anti-Jewish Meetings In Georgia

The Veteran of Foreign Wars has informed the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. that it is directing the Department of Georgia Commander, VFW to take steps necessary to prevent the meetings of the Defensive Legion of Registered Americans, Inc., who were planning to hold a week long rally at Veterans of Foreign Wars hall at Stone Mountain, Ga.

In a telegram to Joseph F. Barr, National Executive Director, Robert E. Hansen, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars expressed "our sincere apologies" for having provided facilities for an anti-Negro and anti-Jewish rally.

JWV had expressed concern, after having learned of the nature of the meetings, being sponsored by Defense Legion of Registered Americans, Inc., which is a "patriotic" organization

some of whose key members have been closely associated with the Ku Klux Klan.

A series of speakers, including ex-communicated Catholic Leander Perez of New Orleans, were scheduled for speeches haranguing about Negroes, Jews and communism. Other speakers and their subjects included W. W. Bruton on "The Enemy Within"; Retired Admiral John H. Crommelin on "The American Jew Communist Conspiracy"; Mary M. Davidson of West Palm Beach, Fla., on "the planned Kennedy administration scheme to throw the U.S. into Jewish banker world government."

The telegram reads as follows:
"The Commander of the Department of Georgia has been directed by the Commander-in-Chief Robert E. Hansen to take all steps necessary to pre-

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Dear Editor:

I am writing in appreciative acknowledgment of the complimentary copies of your publication which are sent to us regularly for distribution to full-time military and VA Jewish chaplains, both in this country and overseas. The chaplains have been receiving the various issues as they have been made available to us, and reports from chaplains and field visitors alike attest to the genuine pleasure and interest with which this material is read. Furthermore, it is evident that your newspaper is a source of stimulation not only to the chaplains themselves but also to the members of their congregations, who welcome the opportunity of reading the issues when they are placed on the racks for circulation. We trust that this introduction to your publication will encourage men to enter personal subscriptions when they leave the service.

On behalf of the chaplains and their congregants, we want, once again, to express to you our sincere appreciation for your kindness and generosity in making this material available for the Jewish chaplaincy program.

Sincerely your,
RABBI ARYEH LEV, Director

THE JEWISH VETERAN

Organized 1896

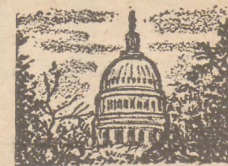
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Capitol Corridors



by Felix Putterman
National Legislative Director

On Monday, June 25, the Supreme Court detonated a controversy that will reverbrate through the core of American society for many a year to come. In declaring the New York State Regents prayer unconstitutional the Court has stirred the innermost feelings of the most reasonable as well as the most prejudiced, of the most tolerant and the most bigoted.

Tuesday, June 26, was an open field day in the Congress with some of our favorite legislators, and some who are not so favorite, busy taking aim at the Supreme Court, secularism, and all the other great generalities which seem to bring out the worst and the weakest in some of our elected officials.

There was much of the same in the Senate where some Senators were confused as to whether their proper role was to behave like pillars of respectable piety or in the realization of a Walter Mitty-like dream as say, "Mr. Justice" Tower or "Mr. Justice" Robertson hurling down great constitutional bolts from Mt. Olympus.

It is also true that a number of supporters of the Court decision took to wandering off the reservation. In a demonstration of that now famous Chinese exercise "the great leap forward" at least a couple of "experts" on church-state relations immediately applied the decision in the Regents Prayer Case to constitutional questions inherent in proposals for Federal aid to parochial schools.

NCRAC

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ity of the American people." It advised that "a constant vigilance and effective counteraction are essential."

In another resolution, opposition was expressed to Federal aid to religiously controlled schools. The resolution stated that "we are persuaded that governmental aid to religiously controlled schools—Protestant, Catholic or Jewish—whether in the form of long-term low interest loans or outright subsidies, would do a grave disservice to both religion and public education.

The conference went on record endorsing the immigration bill introduced

an opening prayer at Congressional sessions. In the words of an immortal bookie, "it was six, two and even, take your choice."

As is true in all great controversies, the temptation to exaggerate is overpowering even for those of great wisdom. The facts in the Regents prayer case, in and of themselves, limit the decision of the court to a very narrow area of contention. Here was a permissive prayer for daily reading by teachers and pupils which was obviously religious, and most important, drafted by state officials for use in state schools.

It ill behooves responsible public officials and religious leaders to encourage baseless suspicion and contempt for the highest court of the land. Exaggeration of the meaning of the Court's decision in the Regents Prayer Case delays the accommodation and consensus so necessary to further our democratic process.

Fortunately President Kennedy's press conference response two days after the Court spoke to questions raised concerning his reaction did much to place the problem in proper focus. He reminded all of us that the practice of religion was a most personal matter most effectively handled in the bosom of the family — a far cry from state devised prayers.

Some good may yet come to Veterans during this session of the Congress. The Administration through the V.A. and the Bureau of the Budget has indicated to Chairman Teague of the House Veterans Affairs Committee its support for the reopening of National Service Life Insurance. This should break the jam on the Compensation Bill in the Senate where Senator Long had threatened to tie an NSLI rider to the House-passed Compensation bill unless Congressman Teague conducted hearings on an insurance bill.

by Senator Philip A. Hart, Michigan Democrat, with substantial bipartisan sponsorship. It expressed disappointment that President Kennedy had failed to speak out on support of the bill and urged him to use "the prestige and weight of his office" to support this legislation.

The conference accepted the U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding the constitutionality of compulsory Sunday observance laws but announced continued opposition to such laws "in the conviction that they violate the principle of religious liberty."

It also complained that programs toward the goal of equality for all Americans is "still far too slow." It criticized the Administration's piecemeal approach" in the direct use of the executive power to advance civil rights. The resolution protested the "almost complete inaction" of Congress on the civil rights issue.

An Editorial

A Classic Role

By THEODORE H. BROOKS
National Commander

If ever there was a perfect example of the classic role of the Jewish War Veterans as a defense agency working with the veterans field, it is the case of the VFW at Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Apparently the VFW Post 5257 hall was being leased to a hate-mongering group known as the Defensive Legion of Registered Americans, Inc., one of hundreds of hate groups that have sprung up in this country during the past few years. This one is particularly offensive. It is offensive to everything we hold to be decent.

Indeed, it was incredible that VFW Post 5257 of Stone Mountain, standing under the colors of its glorious organization, had the temerity to allow its facilities to be used by this group.

Thankfully, we were not asleep at National Headquarters. We are constantly working in this field . . . cementing relationships, seeking insights into the problems of the veterans groups, working diligently for a greater understanding and a broader knowledge of the veteran's role in the furtherance of the democratic process.

Our National Executive Director was instrumental in securing the support of the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Robert E. Hansen, who, shocked and chagrined that one of his Posts should besmirch the name of the V.F.W., immediately ordered the Commander of the Department of Georgia to "take all steps necessary to prevent meetings of the Defensive Legion of Registered Americans, Inc. at the VFW meeting hall in Stone Mountain, Georgia."

"Failure on the part of the Post Officers to cooperate," Commander Hansen wrote, "or failure on the part of the Department Commander to comply with the Commander-in-Chief's directive, action will be taken to cancel the Charter of Post No. 5257, Stone Mountain, Georgia."

(A complete text of the telegram is published elsewhere in the VETERAN.)

But to me, the real point is the fact that Commander Hansen wrote "we extend to the Jewish War Veterans and through them to all Jewish people our sincere apologies for the situation that has arisen."

This gives greater meaning to JWV's role as the bridge between the veterans community and the Jewish community. But, the Stone Mountain case is merely one of hundreds of cases that involves the good offices of the Jewish War Veterans in connection with "fighting the battle of the Jew, wherever unjustly assailed."

We are involved in very important deeds in the arena of action. We need the cooperation of veterans of the Jewish faith in every community in the United States. We ask them to affiliate themselves with us. We are their voice and we need the numbers required to back up our organizational posture.

As we approach another convention and a new administration, I am hopeful that each member will truly understand the sense of urgency that motivates our actions. I believe that our membership advances have been disappointing, even though our figures are up and we are bucking the decreasing trend in other veterans' groups.

Nevertheless, for our very survival, we must increase our membership and next year, I look forward to an increase in our membership that is unprecedented in our history.

That is why I put so much stress in the case of the VFW of Stone Mountain, Georgia. It tells our story.