



# The Jewish Veteran

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October, 1964

## Plofsky Urges Greater Vigilance On Right-wing Extremist Group Action

### JWV Commander Warns Of Increase In Rightist Funds

JWV National Commander Ralph Plofsky this month urged greater vigilance and a more imaginative and aggressive attack on right-wing extremism.

### JWV Chief Asks USA Definition On Arab Policy

A clearly-defined American policy toward Arab military preparations and plans to dam rivers flowing into Israel was asked by Jewish War Veterans National Commander Ralph Plofsky, in a statement on the Arab summit conference in Cairo.

Mr. Plofsky said that United States aid and loans, subsidized by the American taxpayer, bolster the economies of many of the thirteen Arab countries "which just pledged vast sums of their own resources for the unproductive and spiteful blocking of rivers and activation of aggressive military steps, which

In a statement issued from National Headquarters, Commander Plofsky outlined in detail the menacing upsurge of financial contributions to right wing extremist groups.

Here are some excerpts from that statement:

A chronic complaint of those who study and report on the American right-wing is the lack of reliable information on size and finances . . . on membership and on sources and uses of funds. The situation is not unusual in politics and semi-politics, although the evident philosophy of such laws as the Corrupt Practices Act and the Lobbying Act is that the public has a right to know who it is that is attempting to influence public policy and how much they are spending to do so.

\* \* \*

Despite this apparent purpose, the reporting requirements of such laws leave something to be desired. Requirements tend to be interpreted rather narrowly and loopholes are not uncommon relative to items reported.

\* \* \*

When we move into the "gray" area of indirect influences on policy . . . where one man's "education" is another man's "propaganda" . . . the lack of data increases. This is particularly true of information on where the money comes from.

\* \* \*

First, a surprising number of the organizations studied have exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

\* \* \*

Such organizations . . . usually referred to as "exempt" organizations but more accurately characterized as "tax exempt" and "tax deductible" organizations—number in the thousands.

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### JWV Criticizes State Dept. On Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON — National Commander Ralph Plofsky of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., noting the opposition of the State Department to a Senate denunciation of Soviet anti-semitism today told Secretary of State Rusk the Department's stand may be viewed by some as "a whitewash of a shameful problem."

Mr. Plofsky, of White Plains, N.Y., referred to the adoption by the Senate on September 24 of an amendment voicing the sense of the Congress against the rising tide of Soviet anti-semitism. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 60 to 1 despite a State Department letter recommending against it.

Mr. Plofsky asked Secretary of State Rusk "to desist" from a position already repudiated by the votes of almost the entire Senate.

The Secretary was informed that the veterans recall "the reluctance of the Department to

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JWV National Commander Ralph Plofsky, right, congratulated Donald E. Johnson, of West Branch, Iowa, on his election as National Commander of the American Legion, as Maurice Kubby, Past JWV Department Commander of the Southwest, looks on. Commander Plofsky, accompanied by Mr. Kubby, was JWV's official representative to the Legion's Convention, held in Dallas, Texas, last month.

## EDITORIAL

### The Four Questions

There are now four great over-riding issues that absorb the attention of the American Jewish Community.

These questions, which we believe must be addressed to our Government and substantially clarified, relate strongly to JWV's current programs.

So that we may better understand the position taken by our leaders, and formulate JWV policies based on these decisions, these four questions must be answered in clear, uncertain terms by our Government.

1. In view of President Nasser's diversion of Egypt's own resources for purchase of offensive military equipment from the Soviet Union and his own concentration on preparations for aggression and unfriendly actions jeopardizing regional peace and security, while he collaborates with world Communist objectives, does the American Government feel American aid, loans and grants to the United Arab Republic (Egypt) should be continued?

2. Does the Government feel that the United States should use its influence with the West German Government to bring about the recall of German scientists and military technicians from the United Arab Republic where they are building weapons

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### JWV Commends American Bishops

National Commander Ralph Plofsky has voiced the appreciation of Jewish veterans for the stand of American Catholic prelates at the Ecumenical Council in Rome on the controversial draft declaration on Jews.

Notice was taken here that the majority of American Cardinals and Bishops mobilized to demand a stronger statement absolving the Jewish people of all traces of collective guilt for the crucifixion of Jesus. They unanimously decided to work for the improvement of the draft at a session attended by 170 of the 240 American bishops attending the Rome gathering.

Commander Plofsky said the roles of certain leaders could be singled out for special commen-

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### WANTED

News articles, photographs, stories on JWV activities! The Jewish Veteran is anxious to publish news of your echelon's activities. However, we regret that we have been unable to publish most of the material submitted to us during the past few months. The material has not been complete and photographs have not been suitable for reproduction and clearly identified. All material which is submitted typed (double spaced) and photographs that are sharp and clear, either 8x10 or 5x7 glossy prints, and properly identified, left to right, will be carefully considered for publication.

The Editors

could trigger war in the Middle East and even escalate into a world holocaust. This is American tax-paid aid to activities about as worthy as 'Arab Assassins, Inc.'

The JWV leader said the Arab measures agreed at Cairo

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# Let's Rethink Membership

All JWV posts are now commencing their annual membership and membership retention campaigns. This is all to the good. There was great enthusiasm at our National Convention for organized campaigns, as well as person to person recruiting. Everyone agreed that we ought to get new members for our posts.

One of the items we did not discuss at any length, but which is also a primary thrust for us, is the signing up of new members through organizing brand new posts. While there is some activity of this nature taking place around the country (the Department of Florida is charting three new ones), there is not nearly enough.

This may be because of reluctance on the part of some of us to developing "competitive" organizations; it may be because some of us are afraid that the process of establishing a new post is a lengthy and complicated one; it may be because distances are sometimes involved in exploiting and developing new territories or reviving old ones. Whatever the cause, now is the time that we should rethink some of our approaches to membership and seriously consider adding new posts to the 455 which already exist.

Let us take a look at a real success experience. When our newly appointed National Executive Director, Monroe R. Sheinberg, knew that he was joining the JWV, he sent a letter out to 150 of his friends, colleagues, associates, lay leaders and others with whom he had either personal or professional relationships. He suggested to them an affiliation with his new organization and emphasized the maintenance of membership and

## Criticizes

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take a serious view of measures proposed in the early 1930's to challenge the rise of anti-semitism in Germany."

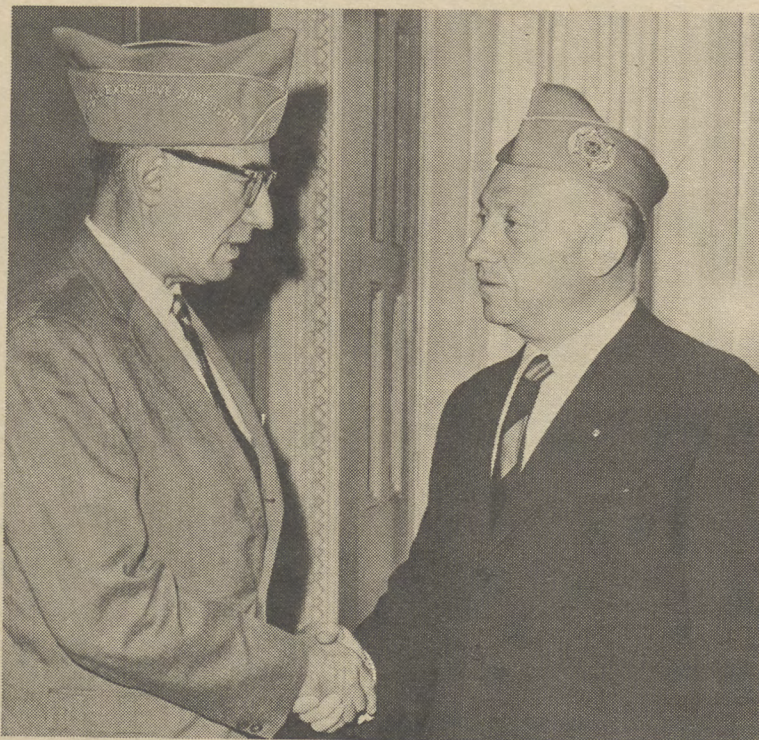
"Then, as now, the Department took the overly-cautious and timid line that American intercession and the public opinion of our nation, voiced by the Congress, would do the Jewish victims more harm than good," said Mr. Plofsky.

"Frankly," he added, "we cannot see how the Department's timidity did the situation any good then and we are dismayed that the same position is still taken in the new situation."

The Department was urged to review its stand and cooperation of the Jewish veterans organization was offered."

"A continued stand of the Department (against efforts to relieve Soviet anti-semitism) may be interpreted by some at home and abroad as, in effect, a white-wash of a shameful problem," said the veterans leader.

He expressed belief that "The Department's position has not been reflective of the foreign policy objectives of the United States as voiced by yourself and President Lyndon B. Johnson as well as the 1964 Democratic Party Platform and the Republican Party Platform."



JWV National Executive Director Monroe R. Sheinberg (left) who has taken a personal interest in establishing a new "Headquarters" Post in New York, thanks JWV member, Senator Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) for his able assistance. This new JWV Post is one of many being formed throughout the country as part of JWV's new membership campaign to provide opportunities for new leaders, new ideas and new activities.

activity in other organizations, none of which do the effective job in the specific areas in which JWV is involved.

It would be wonderful to say that all 150 men joined. Unfortunately, that is not quite true. Some were not veterans; some were already JWV members; some were not excited about the idea of veterans' organizations all together. However, an amazing number of men did respond affirmatively. Some joined because of the excellent insurance program JWV offers; some joined because, for the first time, they were informed of some of JWV's substantive ac-

tivities—the Middle East, Soviet anti-Semitism, the Nazi scientists in Egypt, the Interhandel-General Aniline affair, JWV's legislative activities in church-state relations, etc.; some joined because Mr. Sheinberg had asked them to do so; some joined because they had never been asked.

**MOST JOINED BECAUSE THIS WAS A NEW POST, STARTING FROM SCRATCH AND IT PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR "GETTING IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR."**

This may not seem to be  
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## JWV Defines Position On General Aniline

The Jewish War Veterans last month was asked to define its position on the Justice Department's disposition of the General Aniline case as the result of issues raised in the New York Senatorial Campaign between Senator Kenneth Keating and Robert F. Kennedy.

At issue was a charge that the then Attorney General had disposed of the General Aniline case without enough safeguards to assure that no funds resulting from the sale of the company would filter back to former Nazi interests.

Long before this charge PNC Abraham Kraditor, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, acting under a mandate from that committee had written to the then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy asking for further explanation on the decision to sell General Aniline at public bid.

The reply was written by then Deputy Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, now acting Attorney General. It stated the case for the Justice Department's decision and was referred again to the JWV Foreign Affairs Committee for further action.

The request by the Kennedy campaign committee for a clarification of JWV's position was answered by Mr. Kraditor as follows:

Mr. Debs Meyers  
Room 820  
Chatham Hotel  
33 East 48th Street  
New York, New York

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. has long concerned itself with Nazi war crimes and war criminals. Successive National JWV conventions have gone on record, opposing return of property of former Nazi firms, such as I. G. Farben.

The National Foreign Affairs Committee of the Jewish War Veterans has specifically concerned itself with the General Aniline—I. G. Farben case and by letter dated June 22, 1964, has been in written communication with the Attorney General of the United States relative thereto.

The then Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach, writing for the Attorney General, on July 9, 1964, made full and thoughtful reply to all our questions. The JWV, appreciative of the completeness of the reply and the actions of our government, has not taken any position in criticism or condemnation thereof.

Abraham Kraditor, PNC  
Chairman, National  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
Jewish War Veterans  
of the U.S.A.

## Thinking Out Loud



By Albert Schlossberg  
National Editor

In the first two articles of this series on the anatomy of bigotry, we saw how the Ku Klux Klan spread its tentacles from a small town in Iowa to spin a web of violence, fear and unrest that reached out to darken every state in the Union. As we parted the veil of history we soon realized that bigotry knows no religious, ethnic or racial boundaries. The Klansman's hatred for Negroes and Catholics very quickly was amplified to include a similar feeling for Jews and all foreign-born Americans.

The Leo Frank case illustrated the breakdown in law and order.

Bigotry proved to be big business, substantiated by records of an official nature, indicating that more than \$12 million dollars had been poured into the treasury of the Grand Wizard.

The malignancy of the Klan, we saw, reached into high and low places of our society, corrupting all that it contacted.

As they say in the story books, "That was long ago." Where do we stand today? Church bombings, terror by night, intimidation, even murder seem to have crawled out of the black swamps of despair to become tools of the trade for the purveyors of hatred.

In 1954, as the curtain descended on the age of McCarthyism, a new era was ushered onto the stage of American affairs—the Negro's struggle for equal rights. For its non-white citizens the words of Chief Justice Earl Warren, on May 17, 1954, seemed to be the catalyst that would soon lead America to the goal of justice and freedom, at long last.

"We conclude," said Justice Warren, "that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place."

Powerful words, soon followed by the decisions on the cases of "Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas" and "Belling v. Sharpe" and again Justice Warren spoke, "... the courts will require that the defendants make a prompt and reasonable start toward full compliance . . ."

Though many officials and citizens of the South were willing to accept the decision of the Supreme Court and the implications for social change that were indicated, others resolved to fight this turn of events right down the line.

Aimed at "keeping the Negro in his place" a White Citizens Council was formed in Mississippi and quickly mushroomed out to other Southern states.

The Klan, you will recall, was predominantly a low income, poorly educated, mass membership group and was frowned upon by most of the respectable members of the Southern communities. Not so the White Citizens Councils. Public officials,

judges, lawyers, bankers, men and women from the highest strata of community life aligned themselves with this organization formed to perpetuate the "lily-white" southern school system.

Through the 50's and 60's the pattern of change continued to emerge. Schools, transportation, public accommodations, employment, all areas of life felt the wind of change as the rising tide of equal opportunity slowly advanced.

Along with the change came a resurgence of violence. In four years the score sheet tallied six Negroes killed, 29 persons shot, 44 beaten, 5 stabbed, 60 homes bombed, 8 homes burned; 4 Jewish houses of worship bombed; 7 churches bombed, 1 church burned. The record became grimmer each day, bigotry seemed to be coming an acceptable way of life.

With up-to-the-minute methods the Klan has taken over the helm of the assault against the changing tide of social justice. Walkie-talkies and two-way auto radios form a communications network for the Klan in the battle against civil rights demonstrators. Schooled in modern technology the "bomb-throwers" have become bolder as they sneer at attempts to collect evidence against them that will stand up in the courts.

Unlike the Klan of the 20's and 30's it appears that the K.K.K. at this time has established a strong beach-head only in the South; Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Alabama, to the greatest degree, but the drive for membership is on the upswing in other parts of the U.S.A., California, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Iowa, Wisconsin, or wherever a malcontent can be found looking for a scapegoat on which to vent his spleen or blame his misfortune.

Among the names of people associated with Klan activity we find these mentioned quite often, although some of them deny membership in the K.K.K., Emmett Thornhill of Mississippi, a multimillionaire; Jesse Benjamin Stoner of Atlanta, Georgia, an attorney long reputedly associated with Klan activity; Connie Lynch of California infamy, active in the St. Augustine, Florida trouble spot, and many other lesser characters.

The current membership figures seem hard to pin down. Thornhill, in Mississippi, claims a membership in excess of 90 thousand in that state alone. Other seemingly reliable sources indicate that there are less than 75 thousand members in the entire country. The true figure seems to fall somewhere between both of these claims. The membership figures do not, of course, take into account the scores of average citizens who tend to sympathize with the racists and

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