

# Excluded Groups Present Case Before American Jewish Parley

By Abraham Chapman

The vital question of all-inclusive unity at the American Jewish Conference, the question of representation in the conference for the Jewish-American Section of the International Workers Order, the Jewish People's Committee and its affiliated trade unions, and other Jewish organizations, was considered at a special meeting of the General Committee of the American Jewish Conference on Monday night.

The General Committee invited representatives of the Jewish People's Committee and the Jewish-American section of the International Workers Order to "present their case."

The General Committee has not issued any official report on the meeting. But it is learned that a majority of the General Committee voted against the admission of these organizations.

The majority of the General Committee represents only a small fragment of the total number of 500 delegates at the American Jewish Conference. A large number of the delegates to the conference feel very passionately about the need for including the large number of Jewish workers and trade unionists in these organizations and they will endeavor to have their full say on this vital question.

The appeal of the delegation of the Jewish People's Committee and the Jewish-American section of the International Workers Order was an impressive assertion of the fight for Jewish unity. What transpired in the Basildon room of the Waldorf-Astoria, where the General Committee met, merits the attention and concern of every Jew in the United States.

## JUDGE KROSS

The delegation of the Jewish-American section of the International Workers Order had three spokesmen: Reuben Saltzman, H. B. Ritman, the unity-delegate to the American-Jewish Conference from Chicago and Judge Anna M. Kross.

Judge Kross is not a member of the International Workers Order. She opened her remarks to the General Committee by asserting that she considered it an honor to plead for this large order of Jewish workers. She asserted that she examined the background of this Order and came to the conclusion that its participation in the American Jewish Conference would be a great help to its deliberation and would bring additional data and an additional point of view that the conference could not afford to neglect.

Judge Kross said that she had studied carefully the reason for the exclusion of the IWO and came to the conclusion that the exclusion was based on the fact that the Jewish-American section of the IWO is a part of a multi-national Order. Judge Kross pointed out that the Jewish-American section runs its affairs on a distinctly Jewish basis, has its own conventions and its own leadership. She pointed out that this was a virtue, that the Jewish-American section of the IWO had learned how to collaborate with organized non-Jewish groups, and that the Jewish people ought to be in the forefront of finding a way and a platform for unity and collaboration between Jews and non-Jews.

Judge Kross pointed out that it would be a grievous error and mistake to exclude close to fifty thousand Jews because they belong to an Order which is composed of many national group sections and concluded her remarks with a plea

for their admission into the American Jewish Conference.

## CHICAGO VIEWS

H. B. Ritman made an impressive presentation of the case for Jewish people's unity. He pointed out that he had a mandate from the Jews of Chicago to fight at the Conference for all-inclusive unity and for a program of true people's unity. He asserted that in the city of Chicago the lodges of the Jewish-American section of the IWO participated in the community conference to elect delegates to the American Jewish Conference. He said that he ran with the support of the IWO and campaigned on a platform of all-inclusive unity which corresponds with the program of the IWO for the conference. He pointed out that he was elected fourth highest out of the thirty delegates in the city of Chicago and he underscored the fact that while he received 990 votes from the delegates from the IWO he received 2,500 additional votes from a wide variety of Jewish organizations in Chicago.

The conclusion he drew was that the program of Jewish unity that he campaigned for won the support of all sections Jewish life in Chicago. He affirmed that it was the mandate of the Jews of America to achieve an all-inclusive conference by including all Jewish organizations and by securing a program which would be supported by all tendencies in American Jewish life.

Mr. Ritman pointed to the petitions signed by 85,000 American Jews which were piled up on the table around which the General Committee was sitting. He said that during his 25 years of practice as a lawyer and during his four years of service as one of the Corporation Counsel of the city of Chicago he had learned to respect evidence. Mr. Ritman said that the 85,000 signatures demanding representation for these organizations was overwhelming evidence

of how American Jews felt about the question of all-inclusive unity.

## IWO ACTIVITIES

Reuben Saltzman, National Secretary of the Jewish-American section of the IWO outlined the numerous Jewish activities of the Order, pointed to the fact that the Order had supported the idea of the American Jewish Conference from its very inception and had urged all Jewish organizations to support the Conference. He appealed for an affirmative decision by the General Committee.

The delegation of the Jewish People's Committee consisted of Max Perlow, general secretary of the United Furniture Workers, who was spokesman for the delegation; Louis Weinstock, secretary-treasurer of District Painters Council 9, Al Berkopf, administrative director of Local 65 Wholesale Workers, CIO, Maurice Rosenberg, administrative secretary of the Jewish People's Committee, Minna Harkavy, the well known sculptress of Ikruf, A. Olkin and Mr. Stern of Icor and Dorothy Ofsevit of the Jewish People's Committee.

Max Perlow emphasized the importance of the Jewish trade unions. He underscored the fact that the trade unions with large Jewish membership affiliated to the Jewish People's Committee were approached by the United Jewish War Effort and United Jewish Appeal and received the collaboration and assistance of the Jewish trade unions. Perlow declared that he could not understand how on the one hand the collaboration of these trade unionists was sought in these campaigns and how on the other the collaboration of these very same trade unionists was rejected by the American Jewish Conference.

After the two delegations presented their appeal they were asked to leave and the General Committee met in secret session. It is reported that the two individuals who led the fight against the admission of these organizations were two red-baiters and Soviet baiters of long standing, J. B. Minkoff of the Jewish Labor Committee and Louis Segal of the Poale Zion.

The decision of the majority of the General Committee endangers

the success of the American Jewish Conference. The Conference as a whole, must get its chance at once to voice its opinion on this vital question and reject the decision of the majority of the General Committee.

## Stuyvesant Town Outdoor Rally Fri.

The outdoor protest rally scheduled last Friday but postponed because of rain, against the Metropolitan Jim-crow Stuyvesant Town, will be held Friday, 7:45 P. M. at the corners of 16th St. and Ave. A. The rally, sponsored by the Stuyvesant Tenants League will hear Councilman Stanley Isaacs, Congressman James Fay and Assemblyman Lamula. Aubrey Panken, singer at Cafe Society, will entertain.

The meeting will demand an end to discrimination of tenants because of race, color or creed; adequate community facilities within the project; elimination of walled-in features of the proposed project; immediate rent control in the area, and a plan for re-settlement of tenants and business people of the area in the project, as well as aid to those tenants who cannot live in Stuyvesant Town but cannot find reasonable quarters in the overcrowded district.

A petition to Mayor LaGuardia has embodied these demands and thousands of residents of the community have already signed it.

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## Songs—Music

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