

Jewish Committee Leaders Hurt Unity

By Abraham Chapman

On Sunday, after a full-day session of its Executive Committee, the American Jewish Committee withdrew from the American Jewish Conference. This decision is a disservice to the movement of Jewish unity and can only give aid and comfort to the enemies of Jewish unity.

The American Jewish Conference does not represent all-inclusive Jewish unity. It does not embrace all sections of American Jewish life, barring as it did the Jewish Peoples Committee, the Jewish American Section of the International Workers Order and many trade unions, and it has programmatic weaknesses which have to be rectified. But the weaknesses of composition and program of the American Jewish Conference cannot permit any force in Jewish life to dismiss the Conference, or to weaken it, as though it were some insignificant phenomenon.

The American Jewish Conference represents an important step forward for the movement of Jewish unity.

The way to achieve all-inclusive Jewish unity is to support every positive step which the Conference will take and to arouse all the unity forces and the Jewish masses in America to compel the American Jewish Conference to rectify its weaknesses of composition and program.

That is why the Morning Freiheit Association, which at all times pointed out and struggled to prevent the serious weaknesses of the American Jewish Conference, at the same time called for support to and pressure upon the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference for consistent and all-inclusive Jewish unity.

GOOD INTENTIONS

Those who would undermine the American Jewish Conference, albeit in the name of the best intentions in the world, would in reality undermine the entire movement for Jewish unity.

It is no accident that the most vitriolic attacks against the American Jewish Conference have come from the worst enemies of Jewish unity — the "Forward"-Dubinsky clique which dominates the Jewish Labor Committee. This clique has maintained very close connections with the reactionary anti-national elements within the American Jewish Committee for a long period of time.

It was the Jewish Labor Committee and the American Jewish Committee who together refused to participate in the American Jewish Conference until a very short time before the Conference convened. And it is the reactionary anti-national elements in the American Jewish Committee and the "Forward"-Dubinsky clique in the Jewish Labor Committee who together have been doing everything in their power to prevent the American Jewish Conference from becoming a vital expression and organizer of the will of the Jewish people in America for united anti-fascist action.

DUBINSKY'S HAND

It is not at all beyond the realm of probability and possibility that the "Forward"-Dubinsky clique had a hand in the latest decision of the American Jewish Committee to withdraw from the American Jewish Conference. The reasoning of the American Jewish Committee, developed in its statement of withdrawal from the Conference, cannot be accepted by the forces of Jewish unity in America. The Committee's statement claims that the Palestine resolution of the Conference, calling for the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, was in such essential disagreement with the fundamental views of the American Jewish Committee that a withdrawal was necessitated.

No one has pointed out more clearly than the Morning Freiheit Association that it was a mistake for the Zionist leaders to utilize the Zionist majority of the American Jewish Conference for the adoption of a narrow partisan Zionist resolution.

Today Zionists and non-Zionists alike agree on a number of fundamental demands of the Jewish community in Palestine. Zionists and non-Zionists alike support the economic and military demands of the Jewish community in Palestine, support the demand for the abrogation of the White Paper and wish to aid and assist the Jews of Palestine in advancing their participation in the war and in securing their national rights. Such a resolution would have expressed the position of all Jews, rather than the position of the Zionists alone.

NO JUSTIFICATION

But any disagreement with any of the partisan Zionist aspects of the Palestine resolution of the American Jewish Conference cannot and must not serve as any excuse or justification for withdrawal from the Conference or for disruption of the Conference.

The very statement of withdrawal of the American Jewish Committee pledges to "cooperate" with the American Jewish Conference and expresses the desire to cooperate with other Jews in the fight against anti-Semitism in the United States and in the campaign to abrogate the White Paper.

The best way to effect such co-

operation is to remain in the American Jewish Conference and to see to it that the American Jewish Conference unites all Jews and American public opinion as a whole in the fight against anti-Semitism in the United States, in the campaign to realize the program for the rescue of Jews adopted by the Conference, in the efforts to assist the Jews in Palestine and to achieve the abrogation of the White Paper.

Let us for a moment observe how other forces in the Jewish community dealt with some of the weaknesses of the American Jewish Conference. The Jewish Peoples Committee, due to the efforts of the anti-unity forces within the Conference, wasn't even admitted into the Conference. But the Jewish Peoples Committee and the Jewish American Section of the International Workers Order issued a joint declaration immediately after the Conference criticizing its weaknesses but pledging to support every constructive step taken by the Conference.

CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION

To rectify the weak position of the Conference on the struggle against anti-Semitism in the United States, the Jewish Peoples Committee addressed a communication to the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference calling upon it to take the initiative in uniting the Jews and American public opinion as a whole in a national drive for the passage of the Lynch and Dickstein bills and for the outlawing of anti-Semitism in the United States. This was a constructive contribution to the American Jewish Conference and to the entire struggle for Jewish unity.

It is along these lines of constructive action for the realization of all-inclusive Jewish unity and for the people's program of Jewish anti-fascist unity that the struggle must be conducted.

The American Jewish Conference and the movement of Jewish unity now confront new dangers. The Jewish workers and broad Jewish masses, who are the driving force for Jewish unity and who gave birth to the Conference now face the responsibility of saving the American Jewish Conference and of making it a true instrument of Jewish unity. The enemies of Jewish unity, whether in the Jewish Labor Committee or in the American Jewish Committee, must be foiled in their attempts to destroy the American Jewish Conference.

The Jewish workers must not allow the Jewish Labor Committee to follow the American Jewish Committee.

All of the unity forces in American Jewish life must gird their loins and take the offensive to defeat the enemies of Jewish unity, to press upon and to compel the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference to act and fulfill the program of Jewish people's unity.

Cacchione

We publish below the continuation of the story of Pete Cacchione—His Record, which appeared in yesterday's Daily Worker, as reprinted from the pamphlet of the same name by S. W. Gerson, legislative director of the State Communist Party.

By S. W. Gerson

Pete is a worker. He knows the things that go to make up a worker's life. He knows, for example, how much that morning and evening rush-hour a subway trip can take out of a working-man or working-woman, particularly at a time when labor is straining every effort to produce for the war.

He made a personal investigation of transit conditions in the city and of how overcrowded many lines are, particularly at peak hours. He worked out a very careful plan for staggering working hours in order to relieve traffic congestion. He wrote to many cities where they have such plans and got a report on how they worked out. He discussed the matter with the War Manpower Commission representatives in New York and got their approval of the basic idea.

Finally, Pete introduced a resolution (Res. 203) in the City Council calling for the creation of a committee to work out a city-wide plan for staggering working hours and forced a public hearing on it. At this hearing Pete was backed by representatives of organized labor and numerous civic groups. His plan, however, was killed by the committee, which apparently preferred to continue overcrowded conditions rather than adopt a proposal made by Councilman Cacchione.

Shortly after the Normandie burning, Pete, who is well aware of conditions of the waterfront, introduced a resolution (Res. 116) calling for the investigation of the whole