

# Jewish Communal Agencies Aid Victims of Riot; Attorneys Defend Prisoners' Rights

Major Jewish community agencies are cooperating in efforts to provide relief for the needy who have suffered from last week's riots.

The Jewish Vocational Service has instituted a program of assistance to jobless and to firms in need of assistance. (See story, Page 1).

"Operation Fund" set up by the United Community Services has the assistance of all related Jewish agencies. The Jewish Community Center, Jewish Community Council, Hebrew Free Loan and other agencies are continuing their programs of aid, and special efforts have been instituted by the Jewish Family and Children's Service.

William Ellmann, president of the State Bar of Michigan, played a leading role last week in the mobilization of lawyers who have been asked to volunteer their services free in behalf of the many hundreds of arrested who need assistance in the courts.

In a telegram to President Johnson, Governor Romney, Mayor Cavanagh and other governmental leaders, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission urged insistence that due process be instituted immediately for all persons held in jails for charges related to the riots; that fair bond be set; that every precaution be taken to prevent any action that may be regarded as police brutality or vindictiveness; that equal protection of the law be assured for all persons. Sidney M. Shevitz is secretary of the commission.

Stating the Jewish Labor Committee's firm opposition to the Cramer "anti-riot" bill which passed the House last week, Michigan Regional Director Jack Carper has urged that wires, telephone calls and visits flood the offices of Senators before they vote on the bill at this week or next.

The JLC opposes the bill on four grounds, he said: "Its attempt to regulate words and speech is clearly unconstitutional; the bill gives anti-union forces, particularly in the south where unions are most needed, a club to intimidate organizing attempts; it adds nothing to riot control that does not already exist. Since it is already against the law to incite riots; and it is a reaction to the riots of the last weeks which neither solves the problems at the roots of the disorders—namely; poverty, unemployment and under-employment,

ghettoization and the like - nor does it in any way deter those frustrations and despair that leads them to riot."

Associated with Joseph L. Hudson Jr. on the committee to rebuild riot-torn areas are Councilman Mel Ravitz, Stanley J. Winkelman, Richard Strichartz, Paul M. Borman, Dr. Norman Drachler and Max M. Fisher.

Wayne State University President William R. Keast has appointed Strichartz university general counsel and former Detroit city controller, as university coordinator of a task force to take immediate steps in assisting the city in its reconstruction work.

Members of the task force, drawn from the University's newly created Center for Urban Studies and other specialized areas of the university, include from this area Robert Mendelsohn, 18019 Roselawn, and Leonard Stitelman, 26201 Harding, Oak Park.

Meyer Ellis, president of Famous Cleaners and Dyers, announced that all 17 of the company's branch stores damaged in last week's rioting will be reopened at the same locations.

"We have great faith in the people of the neighborhoods where the looting and pillage took place," Ellis said at the formal reopening of the branch store at 10240 Dexter at Calvert.

The 17 branch stores are among 37 in the Detroit area. The firm operates a total of 100 modern branches in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.

As a token of good will, Ellis turned over to Councilman Nicholas Hood a semi-trailer load of clothing and linens for distribution through the Interfaith Emergency Center.

In Washington, President Johnson announced appointment of David Ginsburg as executive director of the Special Presidential Commission on Racial Disorders which was established last week. Ginsburg, a partner in the law firm of Ginsburg and Feldman, has been active in the practice of law in the capital since the 1940s. He is consul for the Israel government's treasury department in New York, handles Democratic Party problems and is active in practice before federal agencies. His law partner, Myer Feldman, was special deputy counsel to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

Milwaukee's Mt. Sinai Hospital, maintained by the Jewish community, provided emergency service to persons injured in the rioting and disorders in the center of the town. The hospital is located on the fringe of the core.

Unlike the pattern of rioting in other cities where Jewish merchants bore an undue proportion of the loss because many of the stores in the ghetto areas were Jewish-owned, Jewish merchants in Milwaukee suffered little riot damage.

The area in which the damage was concentrated was once a predominantly Jewish area but there are few if any Jews there now. Jewish merchants, however, may suffer some loss of business as a result of Mayor Maier's

action in halting all traffic into and from the city's central core.

In Newburgh, N.Y., a rally in the court house by the fascist National Renaissance Party, whose speakers blamed Jews and Negroes for "tearing down" the country, triggered a riot by Negroes throughout Newburgh. The rioting and looting continued all Saturday night and Sunday morning. Windows of shops owned by Jews and Christians, including Negroes, were broken in the disorder which started during the NRP rally. About 25 Negroes had been arrested and there were some injuries and small fires, police authorities said.

There are about 700 Jewish families in Newburgh. Jewish and Negro organizations had fought in the courts to stop the NRP rally, but a permit was issued by a New York State Supreme Court judge. Once the permit was granted, Jewish and Negro organizations had agreed to stay away from the rally. However, several hundred residents, mostly Negroes, showed at the rally, and about 30 gained admittance to the court house.

Only 11 NRP members came to the rally, and all except one was from out of town. Some gun shots were fired during the night, and a policeman was injured.

In Cincinnati, the Rockdale Temple was fire-bombed and 12 Jewish-owned businesses were burned, looted or otherwise damaged in Negro rioting last weekend, although no anti-Jewish pattern was discernible.

The attack on the temple was no indication of anti-Semitism because a nearby Catholic church was also hit by the rampaging rioters. The 12 enterprises owned by Jews represented less than one-fourth of the total number of businesses attacked. This led to a conclusion that the rioting was generally anti-social in nature, and that there was no special effort to single out Jews.

In New York City, the American Jewish Congress welcomed the plea by four top Negro leaders for an end to mob violence in urban ghettos.

Shad Polier, chairman of the AJCongress national governing council, said that criminal acts of those who carry out and incite violence must be punished and compensation given to the victims of physical injury and economic loss.

But he warned that the "despair and desperation which grip so many black Americans" required vigorous Congressional action "to end racial discrimination and economic injustice against the Negro people."

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## Pinsk Names Street After Jewish Fighter

LONDON (JTA) — A street in Pinsk, a Soviet city occupied by the Germans in World War II, has been named for Sasha Berkowich, a Jewish resistance hero, it was reported here from Moscow.

Berkowich was secretary of the underground committee in Pinsk during the occupation. He was a member of an underground unit clashed with a Nazi detachment. After using most of his ammunition, he killed himself with his last bullet.

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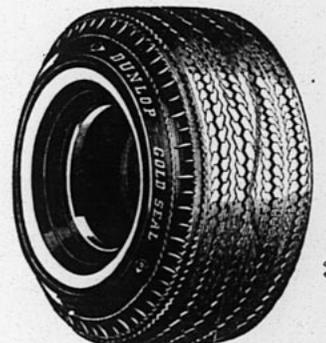
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