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ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION THROUGH TRAINING

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1950 Agreement Signed by JDC, ORT



George Backer signs fourth consecutive postwar agreement with the JDC on behalf of ORT. Standing left to right are Dr. Aron Syngalowski, Dr. David Lvovitch and Moses A. Leavitt.

A new agreement, granting \$1,300,000 as the financial subvention of the Joint Distribution Committee for the support of ORT vocational training installations in Europe and North Africa, was signed by the two organizations on Monday, January 23.

The agreement was signed by George Backer, president of the American ORT Federation; Dr. David Lvovitch and Dr. Aron Syngalowski, co-chairmen of the Executive Committee of the World ORT Union; and Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the JDC.

Fourth Agreement

This is the fourth consecutive postwar contract between the two organizations and, as in previous years, provides that ORT will not conduct an independent fund-raising campaign in the United States. The principal finances for the support of the vocational training program conducted by ORT will be provided by the JDC from funds which it will receive through the 1950 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal.

The JDC which conducts a large-scale reconstruction program has withdrawn from virtually all direct vocational training leaving the field to ORT.

On the ORT Negotiating Committee were George Backer, Julius Hochman, Mrs. Ludwig Kaphan, A. C. Litton, and Anna Center Schneiderman, representing the American ORT Federation, and Paul Dreyfus de Gunzburg, Elie Eliachar, Dr. David Lvovitch and Dr. Aron Syngalowski representing the World ORT Union. Representing the JDC were Moses Beckelman, Monroe Goldwater, Moses A. Leavitt and Dr. Isador Lubin.

Annual Council Conference Hears Wagner, Liebenstein

The ORT Council of Organizations held its Annual Conference on Sunday, February 12, at the Steinway Concert Hall. About 400 representatives of outstanding national organizations and local societies heard guest speakers Robert F. Wagner, Jr., Manhattan Borough President, and Mr. Eliezer Liebenstein, member of the Israeli Parliament.

The meeting was opened by Samuel Reese, chairman of the Conference Arrangements Committee, and the Hon. M. Maldwin Fertig, chairman of the ORT Council, presided at all the sessions.

Mr. Wagner, long associated with

liberal legislation in New York State, made his first appearance at a Jewish gathering since election to his present office. Like his father, former honorary chairman of the ORT Congressional

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JDC, ORT Sign Agreement

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Will Aid UJA Drive

Under the terms of the agreement, ORT may continue to recruit members in the United States with dues not exceeding \$25 per year. It was also agreed that ORT and its affiliates will actively support the UJA campaign, particularly by devoting at least one month exclusively to local UJA campaigns and by placing at UJA's disposal all ORT's public relations facilities, including ORT's roster of speakers.

\$200,000 of the total subvention will be paid in zlotys for the program in Poland.

Cooperate on Curricula

As provided in the previous agreement, there will be quarterly reviews of the progress of ORT's activities and there will be close cooperation between the two organizations regarding selection of courses, length of training, types of instructors and students, and quarterly allocations to each area in which ORT maintains its installations.

The largest allocations in the JDC-

ORT budget will go to North Africa and Metropolitan France. At the same time, it should be noted that, although this agreement does not include a subsidy for Israeli ORT, the program in Israel will be very strongly augmented with funds collected outside the United States. North Africa and Israel will be the two major areas of ORT expansion in 1950.

Stress Vital Needs

Leaders of ORT and the JDC observed that the signing of the agreement constitutes continued assurance to the American Jewish community that one gift to the United Jewish Appeal will play an important role in fulfilling all the vital needs of distressed Jews overseas.

Pointing out that a pressing need still exists to provide Jews in Europe and North Africa, still dependent upon assistance, with trades which will make them independent and self-supporting, ORT and JDC leaders also stated that equipping people with skills provides them with the possibility of migrating to lands of their choice or becoming integrated citizens of their present homelands.

Former Student At Hamburg ORT Finds Job in N. Y.

Nineteen-year-old Wilma Foelster from Hamburg, Germany, found that the days spent at the Hamburg ORT school were the fullest and happiest she experienced since the war interrupted her life and separated her family.

She was a youngster of 12, attending public school, when her mother was taken away to do forced labor, her father left for Bolivia, and Wilma had to take all kinds of jobs, ranging from household work to selling, in order to earn her living. All attempts on the part of mother and daughter to join the



Wilma Foelster

father in Bolivia were unsuccessful, so they remained in Germany through the war years. In 1945 Wilma started attending a school for fashion designing.

Starts ORT Course

In 1947 ORT came to Hamburg. Wilma's mother registered for one of the dressmaking courses and Wilma left the fashion design school to take an ORT course in commercial art. "Instruction I received at ORT for 13 months was far superior to that given at the school I had attended previously," said Wilma. "Our teacher at ORT was a well known Berlin illustrator who gave us practical instruction instead of empty theory." Like so many other former ORT students we talked to, Wilma, too, felt that ORT not only taught her a trade, but also a way of life. According to her, the ORT school in Hamburg was not just a

Annual Conference

(Continued from page 1)

Committee, Mr. Wagner is very much interested in the activity which ORT is doing, particularly in Israel and among Jews in the Moslem world. Mr. Wagner said, "The importance of vocational training for people who have lost their homes, property and all former roots cannot be overestimated. The work you are carrying on in Israel today helps to develop a generation of productive citizens who are self-sustaining citizens of a proud new nation. Aside from the benefits derived by the individual ORT student, your work does a great deal to alleviate the difficult economic conditions of the nation."

Cultural Center

Mr. Liebenstein, speaking on *Israel and the Diaspora*, discussed the cultural revival among American Jews which resulted from the birth of Israel. He said,

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Organization for Rehabilitation
Through Training

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OFFICERS — GEORGE BACKER, *President*; MARK CARTER, DR. WILLIAM HABER, ADOLPH HELED, —MRS. LUDWIG KAPHAN, WILLIAM R. SINKIN, *Vice-Presidents*; JOSEPH WEINBERG, *Secretary*; ALEXANDER DOLOWITZ, *Treasurer*; EDWARD L. SARD, *Executive Director*.

The American ORT Federation represents the World ORT Union, with which it is affiliated, in the United States. The World ORT Union is devoted to the vocational training and economic reconstruction of Jews throughout the world.

The American ORT Federation currently receives its funds, exclusive of membership dues, by special agreement with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, a member agency of the United Jewish Appeal.

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school, but the center of Jewish life where the older people got together in the evenings and the young ones gathered during the day to learn trades; where the Jewish people were brought together for an Oneg Shabat; where social functions were held; and where everyone felt that he belonged.

Likes U. S.

Three months ago Wilma and her mother came to New York with the help of USNA. Wilma is now working as a silk screen designer. She is very anxious to continue her studies in fashion designing here and eventually find a job in this field. "I am glad to have a trade," Wilma told us, "to earn \$47 a week and to be able to enjoy all the wonderful museums, libraries and exhibits that New York has to offer."

Wilma is genuinely fond of ORT and regards herself as part of the "ORT family." What she misses most in her present life is the school, and the satisfaction and stimulation of continued study.

Reconstruction Fund Planned By WOU in U.S.

Almost every national organization of ORT has property consisting of buildings and machinery. The total assets are estimated at between one and a half and two million dollars. France has the Montreuil School, the initial capital for which was donated by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, another Paris building and two farms in France. Switzerland has the Anieres Institute and mortgages are held by ORT on buildings in Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. A tremendous school is in the process of construction in Casablanca, part of the money for which was donated by the World ORT Union. A Tunis school is also being built. In addition some \$300,000 worth of machinery has been sent from Germany to Israeli ORT. In Eastern Europe, including Rumania, Bulgaria and Poland, ORT has buildings amounting to over \$300,000. Not all property in Eastern Europe can be transferred. However, Dr. Lvovitch, chairman of the Executive Committee of

the World ORT Union, hoped that some of it could be utilized for ORT.

American Cooperation

The Congress of the World ORT Union held in Paris last July decided that all property belonging to national organizations should be turned over to the WOU. The Executive Committee is now in the process of organizing an American corporation for an ORT Reconstruction Fund. The intention is to transfer all properties to such a corporation so that these properties would remain under its protection.

Discussing the proposal, Dr. Lvovitch pointed out that a Jewish Reconstruction Fund was organized by ORT in London as early as 1924. This fund had special functions which were distinct from the ORT Union. A credit corporation, it granted loans to small artisans and farmers at very low interest rates. Prior to the war, the corporation operated primarily in Eastern Europe where interest rates on loans were very high and artisans and farmers couldn't afford local loans.

WAO Regions Stride Forward

Mrs. Maurice Finkelstein recently returned from a Mid-Western tour on which she represented Mrs. Ludwig Kaphan, national president of Women's American ORT. The first city she visited was Detroit, Michigan, where Women's American ORT has a strong regional organization consisting of 7 chapters, with Mrs. Arthur J. Bloom as president. Mrs. Finkelstein stated that she was very pleased with the splendid community relations she found in Detroit and the good working relationship between ORT and the Welfare Fund.

In St. Louis, where Women's American ORT was organized only two years ago, Mrs. Finkelstein found two active and enthusiastic chapters, under the leadership of Mesdames Cooper and Pojer, which she believes will shortly develop into an important region.

"Our organization in Chicago has great prestige in the community," said Mrs. Finkelstein, "and the 13 chapters of this most successful region are functioning splendidly." According to Mrs. Finkelstein, the groups there are keenly aware of World ORT Union's needs and do their utmost to assist wherever possible.

1,000 guests heard Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt address a luncheon meeting sponsored by the Lincoln, Grant and Guardian chapters of the Milwaukee Region of Women's American ORT, on Thursday, January 26. The luncheon, held at the Pfister Hotel, was preceded by a reception at the Blatz Auditorium where Mrs. Harry Aronson, president of the Milwaukee Region, introduced Mrs. Roosevelt. Speaking about "The United Nations and Your Community," Mrs. Roosevelt, who serves as chairman of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, stressed the individual's obligation to contribute to an atmosphere in which peace and security can grow. She also described President Truman's "Point 4" program for aid to underdeveloped parts of the world as a program of self-interest which, while satisfying this country's need for markets, also serves the interest of world prosperity and peace. As a long-time friend of ORT, Mrs. Roosevelt praised the world-wide efforts of ORT in its program of rehabilitation through vocational training.

The affair received extensive press coverage and was an important event in the Milwaukee Jewish community.

Sound Financial Institution

The newly organized ORT Reconstruction Fund can be an important financial instrument of the ORT Union since this institution will be eminently suitable for dealing with different financial transactions. If, for example, ORT's proposals regarding the Guarantee Loan of the Marshall Plan should be realized, this institution would be most important.

ORT-IRO Cooperate

The close cooperation which has been established between ORT and IRO in France, Germany, Austria, Italy and Holland has now been extended to Switzerland, where an agreement between the two organizations has recently been concluded. IRO agreed to grant subsidies to the ORT training workshops for former TB patients.

ORT Has Universal Appeal, Says Javits

"ORT owes Mr. Javits a great debt of gratitude," said George Backer, chairman at a luncheon in honor of Mr. Javits held on Saturday, January 28, at the Hotel Roosevelt.

"ORT brings people from all walks of life together," continued Mr. Backer. "It is heartening to know that on the basis of certain ideas people can be woven together all over the world, motivated by no self-interest but solely by philosophic sentiment." In paying tribute to Mr. Javits, he said that he typified the best of this kind of person, involving himself in the work of ORT and readily devoting energy and time, already much occupied with his work as a congressman, because he was moved by the vitality of ORT's ideas.

Mr. Javits, who just returned from a tour of Italy, France, Germany, England and Israel, said, "I want to say that I enjoyed my visit to Europe and that I'm very happy to know that it helped ORT. I want to point out, however, that it helped me a great deal too. Through my activity on behalf of ORT I am doing the two things I want most to do—helping my fellow Jews and helping the people who live in my epoch.

Universal Idea

"ORT is a universally appealing idea. It is not simply a project but a philosophy. The idea of self-help and mutual cooperation is something which Jews all over the world have learned from Israel. The establishment of this nation depended upon the willingness to work very hard. ORT has the same fundamental approach. Productive labor is an eternal verity for man. What I admire about ORT is that it knows how to produce—it knows how to teach others to produce. And in making its facilities available to the non-Jewish world, ORT can be of great importance to the economies of other nations. I know that you will never forget that your fundamental basis remains the Jewish world."

ORT Know-How

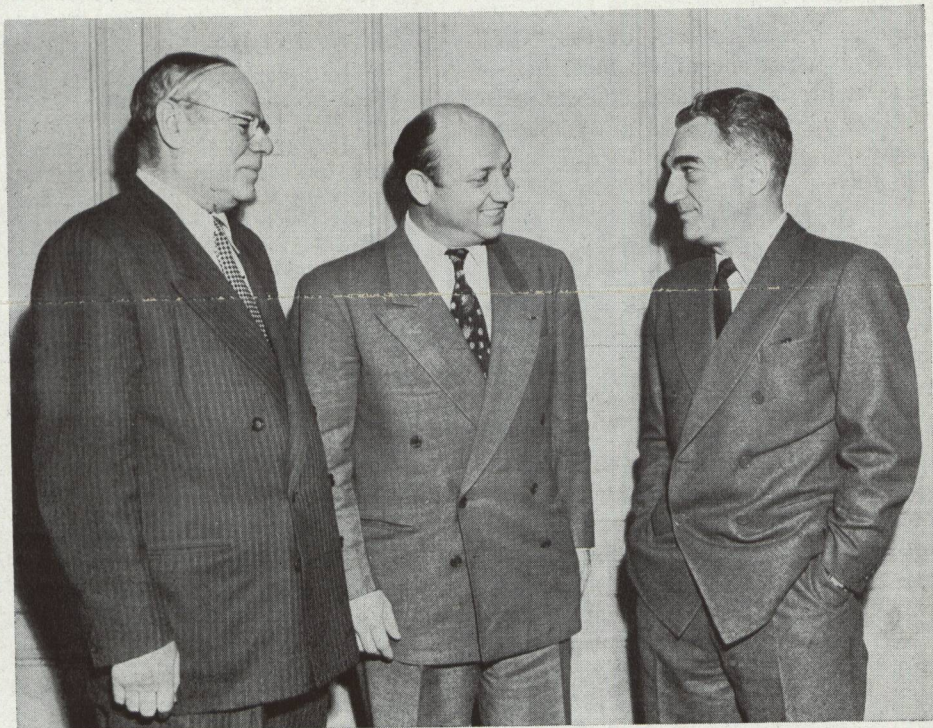
Speaking about the problems in Israel today he said, "In such a society there is no room for drones. Every journalist must have a book in one hand and a wrench in the other. The situation in Israel demands just the kind of job ORT

is doing. There are organizations which have been in Israel for a much longer time than ORT. I am happy to see that there is increasing cooperation between these various groups and ORT. The training needs in Israel are so great that there can be no question of prerogatives or duplication. In Jerusalem, for example, there is an agreement between Haddassah and ORT by virtue of which there is a division of labor. The skills taught by one are not taught by the other unless the demand is great enough to require the facilities of both. I believe that ORT is in a good way to get support from Histadrut. If ORT does a good job, it will be apparent that it would be best to turn over the bulk of

and this she can do if ORT continues to supply a skilled labor force to maintain the economy. In Italy, the problem of overpopulation of some 2 million workers, mostly unskilled, can also be tackled by ORT. Most countries are loathe to open their doors to unskilled workers. ORT serves a great purpose in training them."

Dr. Lvovitch, chairman of the Executive Committee of the World ORT Union, was the first speaker at the luncheon and expressed his thanks to Congressman Javits for the services he had rendered the ORT movement in Europe and for speaking at luncheon meetings in Paris and Rome.

Mr. Javits's appearance in Italy was



From left to right are Dr. David Lvovitch, Jacob K. Javits and George Backer chatting at the luncheon meeting in honor of Mr. Javits.

the training job to you because the other organizations in Israel are not primarily training organizations."

Need for ORT

Complimenting Dr. Lvovitch for his abilities, he said that he was pleased that ORT was not afraid to attack the problem of vocational training at the governmental level. "France and Italy," he continued, "need ORT more than ORT needs them. We must encourage France to remain a haven for refugees

instrumental in creating the Italian ORT Parliamentary Committee, according to Dr. Lvovitch.

Mr. Javits, at the conclusion of his speech said, "One of the world's great organizations has come to maturity today and is now making its impact upon the world. There aren't sufficient facilities for the pervasiveness of your philosophy. I came to ORT myself after my visit to the DP camps. I am still after ORT and ORT will never have to seek me out."

Year-End Reports Indicate 33,000 Received Training

Preliminary figures, received from ORT installations all over the world, reveal that 33,000 students have received training in Europe, North Africa, Israel, Latin America and the United States during 1949.

10,200 students completed their training and graduated and 12,300 received partial training. Of those partially trained, 6,800 discontinued studies because of migration opportunities. Many went to Israel and continued training there. Because of the emphasis on long-term training in that country, however, none have graduated as yet. A number of others included in the partially trained figure registered for refresher courses.

Long-Term Training

Current enrollment stands at approximately 13,000 of whom some 10,500, who started their training in 1949, are continuing this year. In most countries the newly recruited students come to ORT equipped with a more rounded educational background than candidates of previous years. Added to the lessened need for rapid training which existed during the emergency of the immediate postwar period, a situation favorable to long-term courses with three or four-year curricula has been created.

Israeli ORT, with over 1,000 students already receiving training, although it is but 10 months old, concentrates on courses which are specifically designed to meet the needs of the nation's economy.

Expand in North Africa

In French North Africa there has been a considerable increase in student enrollment and expansion of courses. Comparative figures of 1948 and 1949 reveal that at the end of 1948 there were 863 students in Morocco and Algiers while at the end of 1949 there were 1,234. A new school which accommodates 1,000 boys has been opened and plans laid for the construction of a similar school for girls. The Algiers school has been enlarged and a new school has been opened in Constantine. There will also be a center opened shortly in Tunis.

In France itself there has been an increase in enrollment. In 1948 there were 1,982 students registered compared with 2,158 a year later.

Continued Problem

Although there has been a sharp decline in the number of students in Germany and Austria in the past two years, the expected liquidation of the DP camps did not materialize and work continues with about 2,500 students enrolled at present. There has been a recent expansion in the total number of schools and pupils in both countries as a result of the fact that a sizable influx of Jews fleeing from Eastern Europe into Germany or Austria en route to Israel requires training. The ORT schools for "free living" Jews are attended by increasing numbers of students who are anxious to learn a trade to facilitate their emigration.

Eastern Europe

The enrollment in Poland has increased from 1,573 to over 2,000. In Hungary during 1949, 1,600 students graduated while 1,000 received partial training. As of January 1, 1950, there were approximately 500 students enrolled. The work of the ORT Union in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Rumania has ceased entirely, however. Emigration of most Jews from the two former countries has made special ORT training superfluous, while in Rumania the schools have been nationalized.

The largest number of graduates in 1949 were from French installations totaling 1,758 as of the end of November. The two ORT schools in New York graduated 1,574 during the entire year 1949. A total of 1,695 graduated from schools in both the United States and British Zones of Germany. Italy had 989 graduates through the end of October.

Although Shanghai ORT was officially closed in the middle of the year, ORT training continues there with courses being incorporated in the curriculum of the Shanghai Jewish school.

Belgian ORT has 42 courses in 6 localities, while in England there are 11 courses in two localities. Courses in welding, mechanics, dressmaking, cut-

ting and drafting continue in Greece. In Holland there are 25 courses in 4 localities. The main cities in Switzerland also have ORT installations conducting 15 courses.

ORT in Latin America operates in 5 different countries including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba and Uruguay. There are a total of 359 students in 13 different courses. Instruction is given in machine shop, radio repair, electrical work, auto mechanics, watchmaking, leatherwork, dressmaking and cutting.

This summary of training accomplishments in 1949 indicates that ORT has done an impressive job in helping Jews in need to find security and dignity through the acquisition of new skills.

ORT Committees

South Africa—The South African ORT-OZE held its annual meeting on November 30 and unanimously elected the following officers: Dr. H. Sonnabend and Mr. I. Jaffe, honorary presidents; Mr. A. Shaban, chairman; Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler and Advocate Festenstein, vice-chairmen; Mr. L. Lipshitz, treasurer; Mr. Donen and Mr. Rosen, honorary secretaries. Delegates from all important Jewish organizations in South Africa attended the meeting and pledged their continued active support of ORT's work.

Uruguay—The General Assembly of the Uruguayan ORT Association, held on November 27, heard yearly reports by the president, Engineer Arturo Momigliano; and the secretary general, Mr. Moises Silberman. Both stressed the accomplishments of the past year, thanking Mr. Jorge Friedman, newly appointed director of the Uruguay ORT School, for his efforts and enthusiasm and praising the excellent work of the recently formed women's group. The Uruguayan newspaper, "Revista Familiar Israelita," printed an extensive article on the Assembly.

Austria—The Austrian ORT Association is growing rapidly and now has a membership of 111 women and 163 men. For a small country like Austria, where most of the Jewish population had been wiped out during the war years, the 274 ORT members represent a sizable group in the Jewish community. The association, under the leadership of Dr. Sokal, president; Professor Feiertag, vice-president; and Mesdames Eberstark, Neuspiel and Wolken, holds regular meetings and discussion groups and gives active support to ORT work.

New AOF Chapters Organized

An organizational meeting of men interested in forming an ORT chapter was held in Washington, D. C., on January 24. The meeting was organized by Messrs. Louis Rose and Samson Luftig of Washington. Dr. Jacob B. Shohan, member of the Board of Directors, American ORT Federation, addressed the group; and Mr. Martin Biernbach, head of the Membership Department of AOF, assisted in the organization of the new chapter which will be known as the Washington Men's ORT. The chapter plans to have a large open meeting on February 28, and elected the following temporary officers: Louis Rose, president; Louis Fedder, vice-president; Samson Luftig, treasurer; Philip F. Birn, publicity chairman.

Among those present was a former ORT student from Germany who recently arrived in this country. He said that he was proud to be one of the founders of Washington Men's ORT, since it had helped him to regain his self-respect and become self-supporting.

The new group's membership goal for the first year was set at 300, and the enthusiasm expressed at this initial meeting vouches for success.

A new chapter of the American ORT Federation is in the process of organization in St. Louis. The first organizational meeting on January 30 was held despite a miserable snow storm. About 13 men braved the weather and had an initial discussion about the activity of ORT and the work of the new St. Louis group. Jules Dubinsky was elected temporary chairman and Ted Kristol temporary secretary.

The ORT film *Passport to Freedom* was shown at the meeting and received very enthusiastically. Mrs. Maurice Finkelstein of Women's American ORT, who was on tour for that organization, and Mrs. Samuel Holland, former president of the St. Louis Chapter, met with the group to discuss plans for enlarging their membership sufficiently to become a regular chapter.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27 at which time, the chairman informs us, they expect to exceed the necessary membership minimum. The St. Louis group has already sent in initial dues for their signed up members.

It is safe to predict that since this group has gotten off to such a good start it will be a full-fledged chapter in short order.

Annual Conference

(Continued from page 2)

"We remain one people with the same culture, the same heritage, the same traditions and as much as possible the same language. Israel will become the spiritual center of world Jewry."

Discussing the significance of ORT, Mr. Liebenstein said, "The rehabilitation of the younger generation of Jews, especially through manual work, is an important phase of the Jewish revival in Israel. There can be no sound basis for a Jewish state in Israel without a great part of the immigrants turning to agricultural and industrial pursuits. The people of Israel welcome the work of ORT in Israel and the contributions made by ORT for hachsharah to Israel. ORT work for the benefit of Israel will be of durable value."

Mr. Liebenstein is a leader of Mapai and a member on the Foreign Relations Committee and Security Committee of the Knesset.

Max Ogust of the United Jewish Appeal discussed the 1950 campaign of UJA, appealing for support from all organizations represented at the Conference.

Hear Reports

Dr. Simon Segal spoke on the role of the ORT Council in the new structure of the American ORT Federation. Chaim Weintraub, executive secretary of the Council, reported on world ORT activities and the meaning of the American ORT Federation as a great Jewish organization. Dr. Joseph Thon reported on the new constitution and Dr. George Kovarsky brought in a report of the Resolutions Committee. Miss Elsie Fink, concert artist, was featured on a fine musical program.

The following officers were elected: Hon. M. Maldwin Fertig, president; Meyer Brown, Max Ogust, Dr. Simon Segal, Professor Nathan Stein and Louis A. Weissman, all of New York, Samuel E. Kratzok of Philadelphia, Irving Libov of Baltimore, and Harry A. Pine of Newark were elected vice-presidents. Mr. Herman Hoffman was elected chairman of the National Board; Samuel Reese, chairman of the Executive Committee; Dr. Joseph Thon, secretary; Herbert B. Sussman, treasurer; and Chaim Weintraub, executive director.

WAO Conn. Region Sponsors Very Successful "ORT Day"

Thousands of people in Connecticut learned about ORT for the first time on January 24 when the Connecticut Region of Women's American ORT sponsored an ORT Day throughout the state. Via television and radio, over the WNHC network in New Haven, people gathered in private homes for membership teas in Norwich, Waterbury and greater New Haven saw the ORT film *Passport to Freedom* in the afternoon and heard a half-hour broadcast in the evening.

Discuss Training

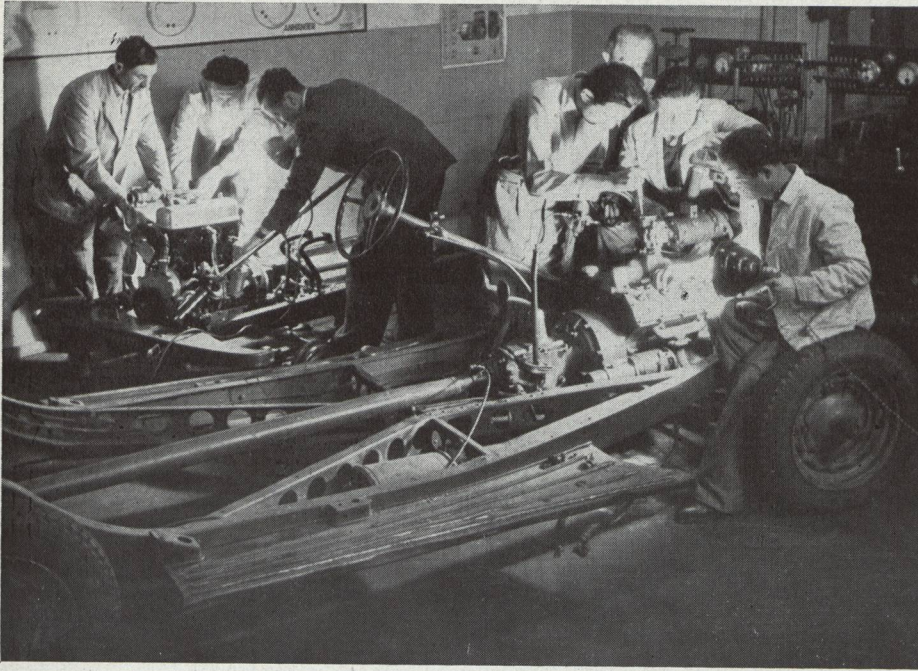
Rabbi Robert E. Goldberg of Temple Mishkan Israel in New Haven spoke about the importance of ORT vocational training to world Jewry. Mr. Aaron B. Tart delivered an address telling a number of interesting stories about ORT students in DP camps which he had visited in Europe.

Mr. Tart interviewed two former European refugees who are now living in New Haven. Miss Ilse Treibl of Austria and Dr. Lee Lubin a dentist from Poland, gave their impressions of the schools which they saw in their own countries.

The Bridgeport and Park City Chapters, which were unable to get television time in the afternoon, arranged a special evening showing of the film at the Hotel Barnum. Mrs. Leon Bader of the national office of WAO was guest speaker on a program with Mrs. Clara Stern, director of the Bridgeport Jewish Community Council and Rabbi Moses Malinowitz.

Many new members joined ORT as a result of these events and the groundwork for recruiting many more members was laid because of this concentrated effort which brought ORT to the attention of thousands of people throughout the state.

World **ORT** Roundup



Students at this **ORT** auto mechanics course in Vienna are supervised by instructors from the famous Austrian technical colleges.

Austria

Enrollment in Austria has again risen during December and 905 pupils are at present being trained in 44 courses. Attendance in the schools is steady and a slight decrease in the fluctuation of refugees can be noted.

In Vienna, 14 students received their diplomas in the pastry-making and confectionery courses; in Steyr, 11 students graduated from the tailoring course; and in Hallein, graduation ceremonies were held in the cosmetics and dress-making courses.

Austrian **ORT** recently celebrated its third anniversary. A reception for representatives of the Allied authorities, IRO, Voluntary Agencies and Austrian authorities was held at IRO headquarters and more than 60 guests attended. Among the many congratulatory messages received was one by Florence Boester, Chief of the IRO Voluntary Agencies Division, Austria, which reads: ". . . May I take this opportunity to congratulate you and your staff upon the outstanding service which you have given to the displaced persons and refugees, and to thank you for the cooperation which IRO has always enjoyed from your organization. . . . It must be

a satisfaction indeed to review the results of these three years in terms of enrichment of lives and broadening of opportunities for the future of many hundreds of refugees. My best wishes to **ORT** for the months ahead to finish the job here, and for continued success in its future program throughout the world."

Belgium

Twenty-seven courses are being given in Belgium's nine training centers, where 448 students receive instruction. The electrical and metal center in Brussels, which has a three-year curriculum giving courses in mechanics, radio repair, carpentry and electricity, has recently released its first group of graduates. The majority of these immediately found employment in Belgian industries, whose management expressed their complete satisfaction with the knowledge and workmanship of the young craftsmen.

Germany

(U. S. & British Zones)

In Germany, too, the student body showed a slight increase during Decem-

ber, from 1,475 pupils at the beginning of the month to 1,565 as of December 31. The largest attendance is still in the needle trades courses, with 813 students being trained. Mechanical hand trades are next, with 291 students; 117 students are registered in electrical courses; 59 in metal trades; 54 attend courses in the building trades and 231 students are enrolled in miscellaneous courses. 24 students graduated during the month of December and 126 discontinued training before graduation.

Holland

During the last three months of 1949, 429 students received training in needle trades, mechanical trades, and miscellaneous trades. This miscellaneous group comprises mainly courses in wood and cardboardworking for children and adolescents. Twenty-five trainees graduated



Students are busily at work in the watch-making and repair course at the **ORT** Trade School in Havana. President of Cuban **ORT**, Mr. G. Krueger, is standing in the background.

during the last three months and 62 discontinued their training. Thus, at the end of December, 342 students were registered in 21 courses. Unlike other countries, the student body in Holland consists largely of youngsters, and 55 per cent are 18 years of age or younger.

India

ORT activities have been launched in Calcutta, India, where the Calcutta **ORT** Committee set up an apprentice placement office. Following an agreement with the Psychological Institute, candidates take examinations and the first groups of adolescents have already been placed in local enterprises to be trained in automechanics, radio repair and radio telegraphy.

Leader of UJA Delegation Lauds ORT Work in Israel

A special delegation of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York led by Max Ogust, executive chairman of the Council of Organizations of the UJA, recently returned from a visit to Israel, during which a tour of Israeli ORT installations was made.

On the committee with Mr. Ogust were Norman Gilmovsky, director of the Council; Mrs. Lucille Stang; Leonard Eisenberg and Jack Kleinman. Their mission was concerned with the problem of assistance in refugee resettlement by New York Jewry. While in Israel, they met with many important government officials.

Teen-Age Students

Mr. Ogust reported that he visited the ORT Technical School in Jaffa where some 260 students, mostly teen-age boys and girls, were being trained in electrical and typewriter repair courses. The majority of the students are new immigrants from Bulgaria, Poland and North Africa. Said Mr. Ogust, "This school is

a very worthwhile venture and it seems to me that it will grow considerably."

Demobilized Soldiers

Very much impressed by the carpentry course in Tel Aviv, Mr. Ogust was particularly struck with the fact that demobilized soldiers, some of them partially disabled, were receiving the training so necessary to their integration in the economy of Israel. Pointing out that the ex-soldiers receive maintenance from the government while they study, he said that the Ministry of Defense helps to defray the cost of training by implementing the budget of the school.

Come from Settlements

Mr. Ogust spoke with great enthusiasm about the shirt making course held in the evening in Tel Aviv for new immigrants. He also discussed the dress-making class at which a number of elderly people are learning this most important trade. There are a number of people from the kibbutzim taking this proficiency course so that they may perform useful labor on the collectives.

Impressed with the beauty culture course, which has 20 pupils, the bulk of whom are new immigrants and discharged female soldiers, he affirmed that the equipment for this course, sent by Women's American ORT, was very modern and of fine quality.

Unique Education

The delegates also visited the Yeshivah Torah Umlachah at Kfar Abraham, mentioned in the January issue of the BULLETIN. They arrived there in time for the Chanukah celebration which a number of local celebrities attended. Mr. Ogust said that the mayor of Petah Tikvah in his speech promised the support of the community for the project at the Yeshivah, which combines theological study with vocational training. Like other visitors, the UJA people were very enthusiastic about the unique type of education offered here.

Does Fine Job

Summing up his visit, Mr. Ogust noted that he had been interested in the ORT for many years and that in his opinion it was doing a fine job in training people to become self-sustaining citizens in Israel as well as other parts of the world.



Onlookers watch as Max Ogust discusses Israeli problems with Prime Minister Ben Gurion. Standing left to right are Mr. Gilmovsky, Mr. Ben Gurion, Mr. Dobkin of the Jewish Agency, Mr. Ogust and Mrs. Stang.

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