

JEWISH TEACHERS CHIDED BY ISAACS

Borough Head Tells Sectarian Group He Sees No Reason for Its Existence

JASON DISPUTES HIS VIEW

Association of 3,000 Defended at Luncheon—Civic Duty in School Work Is Urged

After warning that he would be "tactless" in his remarks, Stanley M. Isaacs, Borough President of Manhattan, told 1,750 teachers attending the eleventh anniversary luncheon of the Jewish Teachers Association at the Hotel Commodore yesterday that he could see no reason for the existence of their organization.

"While it is very important that the teachers organize as you have done, I must say that I regret that the Jewish teachers, or Catholic or Protestant teachers, should have separate organizations," he declared. "I hope it will not be long before the separate groups will combine."

Taking issue with Mr. Isaacs, Simon J. Jason, president of the Jewish Teachers Association, pointed out that this body, now grown to more than 3,000 members, exists to "improve the moral, social and religious training of the children."

"The Catholic and Protestant teachers' associations have equally high and noble motives," Mr. Jason said. "We are not concerned with politics. No one of these three groups expects to use the influence of its association other than for the good of the community."

Civic Responsibility Urged

Schools should develop into the community centers of the city, catering to the needs of adults as well as of children, Mr. Isaacs declared. He urged that "adequate recreational facilities" be established near each school and that the teachers take an important part in improving the conditions in each neighborhood.

"I feel that from the Jewish point of view we are not a separate people, but that we each owe a duty to the community to do our job as ably and effectively as we know how," he added.

Teachers would be more "useful" in community affairs if they did more than merely represent their own profession, Mr. Isaacs contended.

"You know at first hand the actual living conditions better than any other group of public officials," he said. "I am sure that when the children come before you and you find some ill-clothed and ill-nourished, condemned to live in shabby tenements that are a disgrace to the city, you want to help improve conditions."

"I want to see the school much more the center of communal activities than it has been in the past. I think the facilities furnished the children should be extended to include the adults as well."

"Jewish Tragedy" Pictured

A depressing picture of 6,000,000 Jews in Central Europe deprived of protection or economic opportunities, slowly dying of starvation, all hope gone, was presented to the teachers by Jacob Tarshis, known to his radio audience as The Lamp-lighter. Mr. Tarshis represented the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The "Jewish tragedy" started when Hitler came into power in 1933, Mr. Tarshis declared. Now anti-Semitism has spread to thirteen European nations, and threatens the very existence of millions of Jews, he said.

"The Jewish people are facing the greatest tragedy of history, not excepting the darkest years of the Middle Ages," he continued. "There is no future for the Jews in Germany, in Poland or in Rumania. They are being strangled to the point of starvation. These people are being reduced to the untouchable state."

Since 1914 the Joint Distribution Committee has spent \$100,000,000 to aid Jews in Europe, according to Mr. Tarshis. Through this organization, hundreds of thousands of Jews in Central Europe are kept alive.

"The Jews have but two ways to turn," he said. "One is toward Palestine and the other toward this committee."

Governor Lehman sent a letter expressing regret at his inability to attend.