

The University In Exile

By DR. JACOB BILLIKOPF
The New School for Social Research, popularly known as the University in Exile, has proven itself to be a valuable contribution to the intellectual life of America. In the following article, Dr. Jacob Billikopf, distinguished communal and social worker, discusses the background and importance of this unique organization.—The Editor.

A NEW chapter in American educational history was written on April 20, 1941, when the New York State Department of Education granted a permanent charter to the New York School for Social Research, authorizing its Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science to confer degrees in its own name. That this event represents the first time in history that a permanent charter has been granted to a graduate school composed largely of foreign scholars was pointed out recently by Dr. Alvin Johnson, its director. The University in Exile, as this institution is popularly known, was founded in 1933 by Dr. Johnson, who had long been acutely interested in the problem of refugee scholars. During the past eight years, which have witnessed the intensification of persecution of science and learning by the Hitler regime, the New School has grown up into the leading center in America of research in contemporary world problems. It now has twenty-six faculty members, fifteen research assistants, 500 graduate students. Three important pieces of research have been subsidized in the last year by the Rockefeller Foundation, an organization that never makes a grant for a special research until it has assured itself that no other group in the country could do that work better. Two other important researches are under sympathetic consideration by the Foundation and will no doubt be authorized. Two of the ablest professors of the Graduate Faculty have received grants from another Foundation to enable them to make a five months' trip through South America to study Nazi penetration. The scholars are further to make arrangements for bringing to the School a group of leading South American scholars to inaugurate serious work in inter-American intellectual collaboration. In co-operation with the Rockefeller and other Foundations, Dr. Johnson has been able this year to invite to this country more than one hundred refugee scholars, with living salaries for two years. This means a hundred non-quota visas for scholar and family.

The granting of the New York State charter gives official recognition to the fact that science is international and there is need for the contributions of scholars of all races and nationalities. The scholars invited to our shores have, in the words of

the director, "become more American in their viewpoint and more international as well. Most of them now are American citizens intensely loyal to their new country and eager to help her play the part in world affairs which the swift current of events have thrust upon her." The progress made by the New School since its inception is witness to its ever widening influence. It is gratifying to note that Americans have been becoming increasingly aware of the uniqueness of this institution and the contributions it is making to American life at a critical time of our history. This must be heartening to all who are concerned with preserving the torch of freedom and humanity in the face of the onslaughts of barbarism. It must be especially gratifying to Jews, who are in the first lines of defense. If the University in Exile had rescued not a single Jewish refugee scholar, Jews in this country would still be among the most grateful to Dr. Johnson and among the first to support this institution.

THE truth, however—and this will be of special interest to the Jewish community—is that the overwhelming majority of these scholars Dr. Johnson has brought over are Jews. Thus Jews are at the very center of one of the most brilliant educational enterprises ever launched in this country. By his emphasis on the educational problem, Dr. Johnson has managed to fix in the minds of the educational world other aspects than the Jewish. Besides, Dr. Johnson has been very active in placing Jewish scholars in other institutions where formerly the barriers against Jews were high. From the time he took over the School in 1923 he has never tolerated any consideration of race or religion on the board, in the faculty, or among the students. Publicly and privately he has fought race discrimination in any form. And the New School and the Graduate Faculty represent powerful weapons in his hands, with which to fight anti-Semitism in these times when we need effective friends. What the University in Exile has come to stand for in our American life has been eloquently stated by three of the foremost men of our time, Professor Albert Einstein, former Justice Louis D. Brandeis and Justice Felix Frankfurter. Professor Albert Einstein wrote recently as follows: "I am very gratified to hear that you are devoting part of your time and activities to the support of Dr. Johnson's University in Exile. I am convinced of the high value of this institution which enabled a considerable number of prominent creative personalities from Europe to work in their special fields. . . . In this way Dr. Johnson made a great contribution to the intellectual life of the United States and saved valuable intellectual forces from decay." Justice Brandeis wrote: "There is no man or project more deserving of help than Dr. Johnson and the University in Exile." Justice Frankfurter, in a special message at the charter celebration dinner, declared that the University in Exile is a symbol of the ideas which we know and cherish as western civilization. "For while

(Cont. on page 10)

A Regrettable Incident

One day early this month a certain Mr. Michael Edelstein, of New York, described as a "gentle, even-tempered man" by the Washington correspondent of the newspaper PM, died in the Speaker's Lobby of the Washington House of Representatives from a heart attack. (Mr. Edelstein was filling out the unexpired term of Rep. William I. Sivovich of New York). Death came to Mr. Edelstein following a one-minute address in reply to an anti-Semitic speech made previously by Representative John E. Rankin, of Mississippi, a notorious anti-Semite. Mr. Edelstein's normally calm demeanor was shattered as he leaped to the speaker's well to voice strenuous exception to Mr. Rankin's reference to the thinly worn phrases, "international Jewish brethren" and "international Jewish bankers."

These were phrases that Hitler mouthed when he first started on his ignominious career, Mr. Edelstein recalled. "It is becoming the play and the work of these people who want to demagogue to speak about their 'Jewish brethren' and 'international bankers'" the usually calm Mr. Edelstein shouted above the clamor that arose in the House of Representatives. A few more sentences and he was through. But worry, aggravation and a burning sense of decency took their toll. Mr. Edelstein was greatly disturbed by the increasing number of such remarks being made in the House of Representatives, and by the increasing number of members who were making these remarks.

There were over 15,000 men and women, including Congressmen, judges and other prominent leaders of America's public life in attendance at the obsequies. If, as Mr. Edelstein found, the spectacle is becoming increasingly common in the States, it is highly regrettable. The very fountainhead of democracy would be endangered by a repetition of such incidents. We in Canada can safely say that it is one of the rarest things that happen in our House of Parliament. Nevertheless it did occur, as witnessed in the House of Commons last week where we saw the unusual spectacle of a man rising to the floor and giving voice to the familiar ranking phrase. The statement shocked the people of Canada. There was no Mr. Edelstein present to repeat the warning to Mr. E. E. Perley, member for Qu'Appelle riding, that was given to Mr. Rankin and others of his breed. But there were the hundreds of thousands of voices speaking through the Hon. J. A. MacKinnon who regretted Mr. Perley's unfortunate choice of phrase.

We too would like to add our voice to those of the Hon. Mr. MacKinnon and the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, who spoke on Tuesday (Cont. on page 10)

Milton Berle: Gagster

By DAN MARCUS
The Jewish Post brings its readers the following article written exclusively for Seven Arts Feature Syndicate by Dan Marcus.—The Editor.

DID you ever hear the story about the little boy who was late for his own Bar Mitzvah? No! Well, get Milton Berle to tell it to you sometime just as he told it to us recently. No one can relate that tale as entertainingly as Milton because HE was the little boy.

To be quite truthful, there are few who can bring humorous wrinkles to one's face so easily as Milton Berle. Nowadays at Lindy's restaurant, which is the crackerbarrel corner of Broadway, they call him the "Chief."

"That's quite an improvement in diction," comments Milton, "over what they called me a few years ago." He was referring no doubt to the ornery reputation he acquired about town as a "stealer of gags." It was said that no other comic's material was safe from the youngster with the glib manner and the fresh tongue who could take a joke in the most literal sense of the phrase. The public condoned his alleged pilfering of the other fellow's jokes by admitting that when Milton told them they sounded better anyway.

At first glance you'd never guess the audacious young comic was approaching his thirty-fifth birthday. And that twenty-seven of these years were spent in show business.

It was his apprenticeship in vaudeville that really made the Milton Berle we know today. It sharpened his delivery, gave him polish, a fund of experiences and threw him up against every situation a man or woman ever meets along the road of life let alone the paths of the theatre.

Milton loves the business and the people in it. Even as big a man as he now is in his trade, he never forgets those who tramped with him in the leaner days. Always talking shop, his conversation is often punctuated with a query: "I wonder what became of—" and then recalls names that even oldersters in the profession seem to have forgotten.

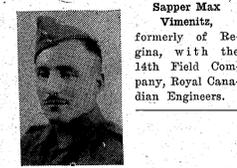
His heartstrings and pursestrings seem to be tied together. That's why at the race track or on Broadway, he's the softest touch in the business. A hard-luck story, if its good or very, very bad, can elicit a "pound" or a ten spot from the wag that knows all the answers but never asks any questions. Rarely do the "lions" ever find their way back to the original owner. In his leisure hours, he turns a re-

markable talent to writing songs. Some of his earlier tunes were "You Took Me Out of This World," "I'm So Happy I Could Cry." When we visited him one afternoon, he had drafted out the lyrics for a new ditty he was going to call "Please Give a Broken Heart a Break."

Six feet tall, with brown wavy hair and blue inquisitive eyes, a movie executive told him his otherwise photogenic face was marred by an overdeveloped nose. Milton decided to have it bobbed. The result was quite an improvement and created such a sensation in theatrical circles that a party was thrown at one of the more fabulous Manhattan night clubs to officially unveil Milton's new nose.

Both the party and Milton's new proboscis were a success and by a coincidence his first film after his schnozzle was snipped was "Tall, Dark and Handsome." But he believes the line which appeared at the beginning stating "Any similarity to persons living or dead, etc., etc.," was directed at him.

While Milton spends most of his time working in Hollywood, his real home is the corner table by the window at Lindy's where he sits surrounded by press agents, actors, newspapermen—and more often than not—showgirls.



Sapper Max Vimentz, formerly of Regina, with the 14th Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers.
Gunner Isaiah Vimentz, formerly of Regina, who is now overseas with the 8th Army Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery.

she has a chance to ask for it. The opinion has been circulated that Milton Berle has no religious sentiments. That is untrue. To those he likes, we've often seen him give a religious medal to wear around the neck as he does himself. And he can match his observance of holidays and the dietary laws with many of the reasonably pious of his generation.

Milton's pal and traveling companion is Tony Martin, the singer. When they were kids they attended Talmud Torah together, losing track of each other for a while, only to meet up again when fame met up with them. As for girl friends, Milton is fond of many. We've never known him to be madly in love with anyone of them but a wrist watch that actress Wendy Barrie had given him for a Christmas gift, not so long ago, did command more of his attention than normally would be spent in gazing at a timepiece.

He has confided that he would like to retire as an actor and just write and produce plays and films. His money has gone into several stage productions and he will eventually blossom out as a Hollywood producer if his avowed ambitions are ever realized.

In spite of the amount of work he turns out, he finds time to write friends long and extremely witty letters. Excerpts from them would serve to make any comedy writer happy as a source of material. To wit is some of his stuff:

(Cont. on page 9)

AN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER IN PALESTINE



The warm and friendly relationship existing between the brave Anzac soldiers stationed in the Near East and the Jews of Palestine has been widely recognized in democratic countries. The indomitable Jewish soldiers fighting side by side with the Australian and New Zealand troops have won the admiration of all British troops and officers in the Near East for their bravery and courage in battle.

Shown here is an Anzac soldier making his contribution to the Jewish National Fund during a festival in a Jewish colony.

REMEMBER

The United Palestine Appeal (U.P.A.) will conduct a separate campaign in Winnipeg during September.

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