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**Title:**

Letter from  
American Jewish Relief Committee  
to  
Simonsen, David

**Corporate sender:**

(New York, United States)

**Recipient:** Simonsen, David

(København, Denmark)

**Resource type:** text

**Extent:** 7 pp.

**Languages:** en

1921-12-21

**Person:**

**Id:** dsa\_joint\_0537.tif

**Comment:** Enclosed copy of a report to Louis Marshall

**Related:**

VII, 218

Herewith is a copy of my report  
to the National Advisory Council  
which I send to you in the belief  
that it will be of interest to you.

David A. Brown.

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## AMERICAN JEWISH RELIEF COMMITTEE

## FOR SUFFERERS FROM THE WAR

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE  
 103 PARK AVENUE  
 NEW YORK CITY

OFFICE OF  
 DAVID A. BROWN  
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December 12, 1921.

Mr. Louis Marshall,  
 c/o Guggenheimer, Untermyer & Marshall,  
 120 Broadway, New York.

My dear Mr. Marshall:

Upon leaving New York for the three zone meetings to be held in St. Louis, Mo., Atlanta, Ga., and Chicago, Ill., I told several of our leaders who had met informally that, upon my return, I would be able to say definitely whether or not it was possible to raise the sum of \$14,000,000 from the Jews of America.

I have just returned this morning and I hasten to make my report.

Starting with the St. Louis conference, which was held on November 30th and made up of delegates from Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, under the leadership of the Honorable Nathan Frank of St. Louis, and ending with the Chicago conference on December 4th, I was met with a spirit of optimism, a spirit of generosity, and a willingness to sacrifice, that made me proud that I had the privilege of being the National Chairman of this campaign.

The St. Louis conference lasted from early morning until late at night. The states included were represented by the outstanding Jews of the leading communities in their respective states. They listened to what our speakers, Dr. Boris Bogen and James H. Becker, had to say; they were keen in securing full information as to what the situation in Europe really was. This was evidenced by the questions asked from the floor. They quickly organized, elected their zone chairman and the state chairmen. They discussed the amounts of money that could be raised in their states and, to their credit let it be said, not one state objected to the quota assigned it by the National Organization. Many of the states said that not only would they raise the quotas asked of them, but they pledged themselves to do everything within their power to raise the maximum and that the quota was only accepted as a minimum.

During the dinner, at the St. Louis meeting, the following resolution was adopted unanimously, not only by the men from the states represented, but by a large delegation of the leading business men of St. Louis:

**NATIONAL APPEAL FOR \$14,000,000**  
 to be conducted between October 1st, 1921 and March 1st, 1922



"To Serve God and Our Fellowmen"

"Adopted Wednesday evening, November 30th, at a gathering of eminent representatives of Jewry from Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, touching the countrywide campaign now in progress towards the raising of a \$14,000,-000 fund for the relief of the stricken Jews of Europe.

"Whereas, compelling and incontrovertible proof has been brought to us by eye-witnesses and investigators of the most abhorrent and harrowing condition of our co-religionists in the war-stricken zones of Europe, and

"Whereas, the problems of relief and rehabilitation for hundreds of thousands of starving children and adults, are pressing for immediate and continued solution by the only Jewish communities in the world able to give adequate help, because of their domicile and citizenship in these blessed United States of America, and

"Whereas, we desire to preserve the honor and fair name of the Jew in general and the American Jew in particular, be it therefore

"RESOLVED that we here assembled, pledge and promise our unstinted and untiring cooperation and support towards the raising and collecting of the necessary moneys in the quotas allotted to the various cities, towns and states which we represent, to the end that we shall thus have fulfilled our bounden duty and responsibility to our brothers, stricken and suffering through no fault of their own, but through the sheer circumstance of their being the victims of war and hatred and prejudice of the benighted countries in which they happen to dwell. Thus shall we serve our God and our fellowmen."

It was the unanimous opinion of those present that the campaigns in that zone shall start on January 15th and end not later than January 25, 1922.

This conference ended, as did the initial Chicago conference and the conference of the New England states in Boston, with the delegates happy that they were privileged to attend. They assured me as their National Chairman that every effort would be made to give as fine a response from this section of the country as from any other. I left the St. Louis conference feeling in my heart that the Jews of the Southwest could be absolutely depended upon to raise their combined quota of \$1,250,000.

The next conference was held on December 2nd in Atlanta, Ga., and comprised the states of Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. The chairman was Mr. Victor H. Kriegshaber, of Atlanta.

This section of the country, as is well known to most of us, has been smashed financially as no other section of the United States; but the response from the men who gathered in Atlanta to attend this conference was a marvelous evidence of the optimism and the enthusiasm of the American Jew. As one of the delegates put it, "Southern Jewry has always responded to the call of our suffering brethren, and we shall continue to respond through good times or bad times, until the problem of the Jews in Europe has been solved and the people of that country made self-sustaining and self-respecting. You will hear no whimpering or whining in an attempt to evade our responsibility as Jews. So long as we have bread for ourselves and bread for our children, we shall give of it to those who have none."

The meeting in Atlanta was in every way as successful as was the meeting in St. Louis.

From early morning until late at night we presented the evidence of what is happening in Europe, and these eager, sincere men listened. When given an opportunity to express themselves, the chairman of each state rose to his feet, accepted the quotas that had been assigned them, making the same pledge that has been made time and time again: that the money will be raised, and that the National Organization could depend absolutely upon the Jews of the Southland. The quota of this zone is \$750,000 and, taking into consideration the conditions of the South and the small number of Jews, it is a large sum of money, but one which we can feel absolutely sure will be forthcoming at the proper time.

Resolutions similar to those adopted in St. Louis were passed unanimously. The dates of the campaigns have been set to begin the third week in January and to end not later than February 1st.

From Atlanta, Ga., we went on to Chicago, where the conference of the Middle West states was to be held on Sunday, December 4th. This conference comprised the states of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota.

#### FINE SPIRIT OF CHICAGO AND THE GREAT MIDDLE WEST.

The conference was called for Sunday morning at eleven o'clock at the same place that the initial conference was called on September 24th and 25th -- a conference that will stand out as a representative gathering of American Jews never before equaled in the history of this country.

There gathered together at the "Standard Club" leading Jews from every one of the ten states named. These men were men of action; under the leadership of Charles Rubens, they got down to business early in the day, shortly after James H. Becker and Dr. Frank Rosenblatt had again told the story of what they had seen during the time that they were in Central Europe and Russia. Again we had an exhibition of how the Jewish mind functions. When asked to give and work in behalf of suffering humanity, no word was uttered about hard times and bad business, no suggestion that the effort should be delayed until more prosperous times. Instead, there was the attitude that here is a responsibility and a duty resting upon the Jews



of this great country and that they, the Jews of the Middle West, must and will assume their proportion of the grand total.

This zone was given a quota of \$3,250,000 and at no time during the entire day did anyone suggest that this amount could not be raised in this zone. Possibly they were inspired by the presence of that "Prince of Israel", that great American citizen, that generous, lovable man, Julius Rosenwald, who at the great mass meeting held at the beginning of the Chicago Campaign, said that, regardless of economic conditions, regardless of individual losses, the Jews of this country must pledge themselves in this cause at least to the extent that they had done in former years, and that we would give to the Chicago Campaign precisely in the same proportion as in the last Chicago Campaign. Julius Rosenwald, in the last campaign contributed \$250,000, which brought the total for Chicago in that year to \$2,000,000.

The Chicago mass-meeting, a thrilling meeting, was an outpouring of Jews never before witnessed in the history of Chicago Jewry. Early in the afternoon a wet snow began to fall and some were doubtful as to whether the people would come from all parts of the city in the face of the bad weather. Yet every seat and every available bit of standing room in Sinai Temple was filled. In addition, there was a large overflow meeting in the Assembly Hall next door, and it was reported that hundreds were turned away from this overflow because the police refused to allow any more to enter.

It has been my privilege upon numerous occasions, to attend and participate in mass meetings for different purposes; but never in all of my experience, have I played a part in a meeting where the enthusiasm was so great and the response so generous.

The meeting was called to order by Jacob M. Loeb, Chairman for the Chicago Campaign, that busy man, of great civic, social and business affairs, who closed his desk and moved it to the headquarters of the Chicago Committee and who has been on the job from 12 to 20 hours every day since, the man who has been an inspiration to the Jews of Chicago because of the splendid manner in which he has thrown himself into this great effort and whose enthusiasm is spreading to every section of this country.

Mr. Loeb called upon Dr. Emil G. Hirsch to open the meeting with prayer. From that moment until the very end of the meeting, the atmosphere was surcharged with a sense of the sacred duty that rested upon those who gathered there.

The speakers of the evening were James H. Becker, Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, Julius Rosenwald, Gen. Abel Davis, Harry Fisher and the writer.

#### A DRAMATIC MOMENT

One of the most dramatic incidents of the evening was when Judge Fisher, who had lately returned from Russia, told of his visit to a grave 80 x 25 feet that had been filled with the Jewish victims of a massacre that had occurred in a certain Russian city -- a grave in which 1260 old men, old

women and babes had been buried, and upon which he had taken a solemn oath that so long as he had breath in his body and the power to use his voice he should never cease appealing to the people of America to help our brethren who had suffered as no other people in the world had suffered. Judge Fisher asked that vast audience to rise and pledge with him in silence that they also would give of themselves and give of their means until these, our brothers and sisters, our very flesh and blood, had again been made safe from those murderers in Europe and relieved of their physical and mental suffering.

The vast audience rose. Piercing the solemn silence came the voice of Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch; trembling with emotion, he recited the Kaddish, moving the great assembly to tears.

How they responded when General Davis asked them to give. They gave and gave and gave; they gave until it hurt, and they kept right on giving, until it felt good.

From Julius Rosenwald's magnificent subscription to the subscription of the poorest person in that audience, each gave with abandon and to the point of sacrifice. One man in the rear of the Temple got up and said, "I am a poor man; my business has suffered; it is three times as bad as it was last year; therefore I intend to give three times as much as I gave last year, because my people are suffering one thousand times more than they have ever suffered before."

#### MASS-MEETING CONTRIBUTIONS PASS MILLION

The amount of money raised at that mass-meeting went well beyond the million mark and only a small number of Chicago's Jews were represented. What the full result will be, will be told in the next week or ten days. There is little reason to doubt that Chicago will raise well on to \$2,000,000. But over and above the amount of money raised, the example of Chicago will be of great value to every other section of the country.

Chicago was the first large city in the United States to give answer as to what it intended to do in our \$14,000,000 Campaign. And that answer places upon every community in this country the responsibility of doing likewise. No Jewish community from the smallest hamlet with its one Jew, if you please, to New York with its million and one half Jews will dare do less for these men and women and children who have suffered so much during the past seven years, than that wonderful metropolis of the Middle West.

And so, after these ten days of intensive traveling and meeting with representative Jews from twenty states, I feel that I may say to you that the \$14,000,000 will be raised because the Jews of this country have spoken; because the Jews of this country now know what the needs are and that they accept the full responsibility of meeting these needs.



TWENTY FIVE STATES ORGANIZED.

Up to the present time, including the New England States, report of which was made some time ago, we have organized and have in action or ready to get into action, twenty-five states. These twenty-five states have within their borders approximately 800,000 Jews. The total quota for these twenty-five states already accepted, is \$6,510,000.

There still remain to be organized the zones in which approximately 2,200,000 Jews live. If the balance of the country responds in the same proportion it can readily be seen that the \$14,000,000 will be raised and such an over-subscription made as will not only bring healing balm to the Jews of Europe, but will make the Jews of this country happy with the consciousness of a duty so nobly performed as to win for them the respect and admiration of all lovers of humanity.

Sincerely yours,

*David H. Brown*

CHAIRMAN NATIONAL APPEAL

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