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about

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

a statement of program and policy

The front and back of this folder are photographic reproductions of the original 36-page booklet. These two inside pages contain excerpts clipped out and photographed from the booklet -- with no comment, only the underlining has been added.

Funds for the American Jewish Committee's activities are raised jointly with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith through the Joint Defense Appeal.

What we do—and what we plan to do in the critical period ahead—differs not only in extent, but in intent and emphasis, from the earlier and perhaps more familiar patterns of operation of the American Jewish Committee.

We believe that early attitudes of hostility are often firmly implanted through Christian teachings which perpetuate historical inaccuracies about Jews and Judaism. Such teachings can, and have been altered as religious leaders and educators have developed new insights into this problem.

We supply Christian religious publications with prepared materials, articles, and stories, depicting Jewish life, Jewish spiritual heritage and Jewish religious values as well as articles on current issues which particularly affect American Jews.

Through the newly created Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches, the AJC and ADL will jointly have an unprecedented opportunity to aid in the preparation of lesson materials, study guides, audio-visual aides, etc. for use in educational activities sponsored by the Protestant churches and organizations.

An analysis of films depicting the Crucifixion Story, used in religious educational activities, was completed during 1950 and the results were made available to community councils through the National Community Relations Advisory Council. Steps are now being taken in cooperation with leading educators and film producers to modify those films believed to affect adversely Jewish-Christian relationships.

Accordingly, AJC's program calls for:

Continued accumulation, through studies which we and related organizations carry on, of substantial information on the dynamics of individual and group behavior. We must obtain more complete knowledge about the way people think and behave and the methods of modifying their thoughts and behavior in specific directions.

Typical of recent litigative efforts were "amicus curiae" briefs filed together with the Anti-Defamation League, in the following cases:

Shelley vs Kraemer, which struck down racial covenants; *McCullum case*, attacking the constitutionality of released time; *Sweatt case*, involving validity of racial segregation by the University of Texas Law School;

Its ultimate goal is, of course, the elimination of discrimination and segregation from every phase of American life.

Radio Over the last five years, AJC has been responsible, either wholly or in part, for 5,000 radio programs.

With the help and advice of a lay committee consisting of top radio producers, network officers, writers and radio personalities who help to "strategize" AJC's campaigns, our radio activities are multi-faceted and include:

- placing of well-known people on special programs
- feeding facts to newscasters
- stimulating dramatic and documentary productions
- suggesting special "angles" and subjects to producers and writers of quiz shows, discussion programs, children's programs, etc.
- working with producers and writers to inculcate favorable ideas and attitudes with respect to handling of minority problems.

Television offers untold opportunities for introducing educational concepts in terms of intergroup relations into existing programs and for developing new ones.

Magazines and Press Through continuing cooperation with magazine editors and writers we have been able to (a) place important articles and stories having a positive bearing upon Jews and matters of Jewish concern, and (b) have modified or eliminated articles and stories carrying negative or hostile references to Jews.

In the '40's, the necessity for reconstruction and the rehabilitation of Jews abroad, the need for liberalized immigration into this country, the necessity for understanding and supporting the United Nations: particularly with respect to the inclusion of the human rights concept in its charter, the struggle over Israel and its ultimate creation, were all reflected in AJC's expanded program of domestic education, as well as in its on-the-spot activities in countries abroad.

As the AJC carries forward its program at this highly critical moment in our country's history, it does so in the conviction that the opportunity before us today is greater than at any other time since the birth of the United Nations in San Francisco.

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