

## Edward G. Robinson Greets Soviet Jewish Delegates



Film star Edward G. Robinson (center) welcomes Professor Solomon Michaelis (left) and Lt. Col. Itzik Feffer, Jewish envoys from the U. S. S. R., at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles where an enthusiastic crowd of 8,000 contributed over \$20,000 to aid Russia. Robinson brought the house down as he addressed the delegation in English, Yiddish and Russian.

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## Bird's-Eye View Of American Jewish Conference, 1943

BY SHIRLEY CHARDKOFF

"A great hour, thank God, has not found us a small people. The future—tomorrow—is still uncertain. Many curtains have still to be drawn."

A great hour has not found us a small people—Abba Hillel Silver in the closing session of the Conference, expressed the kernel of accomplishment in that one sentence. The Conference opened on a scene of intense lobbying, strong dissensions, and very obvious political maneuvering. At first it made one heart-sick. Since each bloc was insistent upon its own terms, rumors of withdrawals emanated from the committee rooms. Sessions dragged eternally with lengthy oratory—because the committees were still behind locked doors. But that IS the democratic way. A fascist-minded leader might have been able to enforce a rigid goose-step, and make the resolutions run on scheduled time—like trains in Italy—but this was the democratic way of life, so dear to the Jew, in action.

As one reviews the temper of the sessions, one realizes that at the outset, the leaders were guided by UNITY at almost any cost. The delegates on the floor, however, were of a different temper. I overheard one delegate express himself to the effect that his influence at the Conference had amounted to zero. He was mistaken. Sitting in the press box, at right angles to both the rostrum and the floor, I watched the reaction as the "ball was thrown" from one faction to the other, and there is no doubt but that the composite delegation—the men from the people—had the final say in shaping the policy, and unity was achieved without whittling down the program.

We have also to thank the American Council for Judaism, for by their "impertinence," they provoked a unified denunciation. Four speakers, representing all the rabbinical bodies in the United States, condemned this group because of its treachery to the Jewish people. In the New York Times of August 31 they made a statement of calculated misrepresentation to undermine the prestige of the American Jewish Conference. The bare fact remains that NUMBERS COUNT. Signing their vicious statement are 26 Reform Rabbis and 86 laymen. The American Jewish Conference represents the will of over 2 million people, and from the fury, emerged the crystalized fact that the overwhelming majority of the citizens of this country are Zionist in their sympathy.

And so it was fitting and right that the resolutions passed were not compromising ones. It is true that their wording is elastic—we would not wish to hamper the Committee in its intense work, for "many curtains have still to be drawn". But the objectives are clear-cut. The Palution calling for the of the Balfour Declar- of the Mandate for reconstitute Palestine i Commonwealth, was an overwhelming vote, votes recorded in the ose dissenting resolv- in the Conference as position. ie great hour did not 1 people.

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## STANLEY BERNARD GELMAN OBSERVES HIS FIRST BIRTHDAY

Stanley Bernard Gelman, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gelman of St. Augustine, Fla., was a year old August 25 and in celebration of the occasion, his mother entertained at an afternoon party in his honor.

Guests were invited from 3 to 5 o'clock and a pastel color motif was used effectively by the hostess.

Served with the birthday cake were ice cream, fruit punch and candy, Mrs. Gelman being assisted by Miss Lillian Friedman, Miss Ruth Wolfe and Mrs. W. K. Moeller.

Helping Stanley celebrate were Vivian Eff, Michael Gold, Paul, Shelia and Gloria Jean Goldstein, Ruja and Louis Manilove and Freddie Rice. Stanley's grandmother, Mrs. Bertha Bloom, came down from Jacksonville for the party and was also present. In addition to those already mentioned, were the mothers of the children.

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