

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rabbinical Council of America, December 19, 1962, at the Esplanade Hotel, 305 West End Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Present: Executive members, Rabbi Theodore L. Adams, Abraham N. AvRutick, Sidney Applbaum, Louis Bernstein, Bernard L. Berzon, Alexander Budin, Albert Feldman, Meir Felman, Isaac Filler, Sol B. Friedman, Leonard B. Gewirtz, Morris Gorelik, Rafael G. Grossman, Arnold Heisler, William Herskowitz, David B. Hollander, H. Hillel Horowitz, Israel Klavan, Sholem B. Kowalsky, Paul Z. Levovitz, Robert H. Marcus, Israel Miller, Herman Neuberger, Fabian Schonfeld, Solomon J. Sharfman, Morris Shmidman, Nisson E. Shulman, Mordecai J. Simckes, Joseph M. Singer, Zevi Tabory, Israel Turner, Azriel G. Weissman. Also Rabbis Charles B. Chavel, Eliezer Cohen, William Cohen, Pincus Dachowitz, Morris Finer, Solomon M. Friedland, Abner German, Hirsh Goldberg, Morton Gordon, Murray Grauer, Reuben Gross, Abraham Hartstein, Immanuel Jakobovits, Gilbert Klaperman, Kurt Klappholz, Ephraim Kolatch, Simon G. Konovitch, H. Joel Laks, Norman Lamm, Sidney Lebor, Elihu Marcus, Moshe Max, Ephraim Shimoff, Philip Tatz, Bernard M. Twersky.

The meeting was opened by Rabbi AvRutick at 10:30 A.M. While the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with, one correction was made. Rabbi Max Schreier was named coordinator of the Sermon Manual.

The President reported that Rabbi David Silver of Harrisburg, Pa., was elected president of the Beth Din.

The President congratulated Rabbi Sholem B. Kowalsky, who has been designated the Man of the Year, by Yeshiva Ner Israel, and bid farewell to Rabbi Robert Marcus who is settling in Israel.

As a matter of procedure, Rabbi AvRutick suggested that discussion on committee reports will be withheld until all reports are in - this will save time.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: In the absence of the chairman, Rabbi Israel Klavan reported. Rabbi Herbert Richtman, Far Rockaway, N.Y., was accepted to membership.

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE: Rabbi Berzon reported that the program for the Conference is complete. The committee has included a Hespel for Rabbi Aharon Kotler. (104)

KASHRUTH COMMITTEE: Rabbi Berliant reported that a special meeting was held on September 17th. Two points were discussed; a) handling of Hechsherim, b) implementation of policy. Under special discussion was the problem of LICOR, since some of their establishments have open Chilul Shabbos and there is a threat that other establishments now observing Shabbos will be forced to follow suit. After a lengthy debate, the following motion was made and passed:

It has been brought to the attention of the RCA that certain caterers permit so-called candle lighting ceremonies, playing of music, and taking of pictures at functions occurring on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays. The RCA condemns these acts as open and flagrant violations of the sanctity of the Sabbath. We call upon all RCA members, individually, collectively, or as members of groups, to disassociate themselves from the granting of Kashruth certification to such establishments until these violations are eliminated and discontinued. Failure to comply with this resolution shall be deemed grounds for disciplinary action.

FAMILY AND MARRIAGE COMMITTEE: Rabbi Morris Max, chairman, reported that the Ksuba was shown to Rabbi Soloveitchik, who insists on a literal translation. Thus our Ksuba will have both a literal translation and a short summary..

PLACEMENT COMMITTEE: Rabbi Felman, chairman, of the special committee on placement, reported that while this committee is preparing a final report for the Midwinter Conference, the committee has come to the conclusion that there is a need for a special committee on placement, whose purpose shall be to serve as liaison among the various

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placement agencies, to bring some order into the field and through this method, to be of assistance to the individual members of the RCA.

YESHIVATH HADOROM: Rabbi Sidney Applbaum reported that Rabbi Louis Bernstein will soon leave for Israel to investigate and appraise the relationship with the RCA, since certain steps have been taken without prior consultation, e.g., Gan Yavne. A summer camp for teenage boys from the USA under the aegis of Yeshivath Hadorom, is being planned.

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Rabbi Sholem B. Kowalsky, chairman, reported that there will be a \$20,000 deficit in the RCA this year. He appealed for contributions to the Torah Fund. Rabbi Kowalsky also reported that there were a substantial number of members who were in arrears in dues. He asked for Executive Committee guidance. Rabbi Shmidman pointed out that no guidance was necessary, that members in arrears were, according to the constitution, to be dropped from membership when they were in arrears. He moved that the Budget and Finance Committee be instructed to implement this principle, and that they send registered letters to those who are in arrears more than the permissible amount. The motion was passed.

The question of the new J.P.S. Bible translation was again raised. Rabbi AvRutick reported that he had talked to Dr. Belkin, who indicated that he had been assured by Rabbi Harry Freedman that the translation was good. He had no other association with the translation. The question of what position the RCA was to take, with respect to this translation, was discussed at length. A number of people felt that the RCA ought to make some public statement on the matter. Rabbis Adams, and Klavan recalled for the membership that in 1953 when the JPS had invited the RCA to serve on the translating committee, we had replied that we would do so only if our delegation had a veto power on principle; this was denied and the RCA did not associate itself in any way with the translation. The story in the Young Israel Viewpoint what Rabbi Freedman represented the RCA is not true. A motion was made that the entire matter be referred to the publications committee, which is to report to the Executive no later than March 1963, was passed.

At the luncheon session, the Executive were privileged to listen to Israeli Chief of Chaplains, Rabbi Shlomo Goren. His remarks were enthusiastically received. Also present was Israel Consul, Haim Zohar.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rabbi Azriel G. Weissman,
Recording Secretary

For the sake of clarification, we are including an excerpt from the Minutes of August 1953, which reflects upon the RCA's position with respect to the JPS translation: "Rabbi Adams reported on a letter from Dr. Solomon Grayzel of the Jewish Publication Society of America. In this letter he stated that the JPS is planning to publish a new translation of the Bible on the editorial board of which he would like to have some of our members. This matter too was submitted to the Halacha Commission and a brilliant responsa from Rabbi Soloveitchik is now in our files. On the basis of this, our President wrote to Dr. Grayzel the following:—"The translation of the Bible should, we feel, contain the spirit of the Torah She B'al Peh. We would not like to be sponsors of any translation which would come into conflict with that spirit and we are very much afraid lest that happen. We are ready to enter into this sponsorship only on the provision that the committee of translators will include some individuals who can and do represent the point of view of which we are speaking and that these scholars be given the privilege of vetoing readings which they find in conflict with the traditions of our Torah as we understand them. We have in mind such a scholar as Rabbi Dr. Chaim Heller, who is one of the greatest biblical scholars of our generation."

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