

## FACT AND OPINION

by SAMUEL SPIEGLER

### EDITOR'S NOTE

THUS far, under its present editor, Fact and Opinion has been a repository of fact only—or, some may say, of fact and putative fact. There is room in it for opinion—your opinion, gentle reader—on any matter relevant to the field of Jewish communal service. Also for ideas, suggestions, gripes, whatnots. Some of them may wind up in the wastebasket—of which every editor must have a capacious variety—but they will be off your chest, at any rate. So, write.

None of this is meant to rule out facts. Tid-bits of information will be received with gratitude, too, so long as they are of general professional interest and suitable for sending through the mail.

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### PILOT PROJECT FOR UNEMPLOYED SCHOOL DROPOUTS

A \$338,600 project to provide job counseling and placement for out-of-school, out-of-work youth, aged 16-18, from families on welfare has been launched in New York City. Coordinated by the Community Council of Greater New York, the project is being conducted in cooperation with the Office of Manpower, Automation and Training of the United States Department of Labor.

Five voluntary, non-profit guidance

and placement agencies are participating in the project. They are the Federation Employment and Guidance Service, the Archdiocesan Vocational Service, Vocational Advisory Service, the Vocational Service Department of Urban League of Greater New York, and Vocational Service Center Branch of the YMCA.

These agencies will offer direct services to the youth, all of whom will be referred to the program either by the Department of Welfare or JOIN (Job Orientation in Neighborhoods, a cooperative venture, federally subsidized). The New York State Employment Service and the Board of Education will play cooperating roles.

At any one time the Department of Welfare has on its rolls some 900 teenagers who have the capacity to work but who remain jobless because of their lack of skills—usually school dropouts with poor work attitudes and motivation and low academic achievement. Frequently they have multiple problems, which include difficulties in family relationships, low socio-economic status, cultural deprivation and tendencies toward delinquency. Protracted unemployment tends to intensify their problems.

Each participating agency has agreed to serve these youth during the year

of the project, providing a comprehensive, individualized program for each youngster. This will include intake and evaluation, vocational counseling, referral to training where necessary, placement and follow-up. A participating agency counselor will coordinate the total program for each youth.

Follow-up after a youth has been placed on a job is seen as an essential aspect of the project, to prevent and solve job adjustment problems. Follow-up will also gather data to be used in evaluating the project. Central service facility evaluation will, at the end of the project, present data on the characteristics of the project youth; on service statistics; on the functioning of an inter-agency program in this field; and on the employment success of the individuals.

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### **ENDOWMENT FUNDS FOR FEDERATIONS GROWING**

ENDOWMENT funds established and nurtured by Jewish Federations in the United States have grown tremendously in the last 15 years. In 12 of the largest Jewish U.S. communities, these funds grew from an aggregate of \$22,082,231 in 1948 to a total of \$62,211,250 in 1962—an increase of 181.7 per cent.

Henry Zucker, executive of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland, who is regarded as the chief architect of the Federation endowment program in Cleveland (one of the 12 cities), says of the endowment fund:

“First, it is a sort of insurance policy against bad times. Some day, your welfare fund may have a disastrous result because economic conditions will be bad. The same thing will probably be true that year for your community fund, if it is a source of support for your institutions. You want to be ready to ease the shock of the setback.”

Secondly, “there are and always have been, and always will be Jewish emergencies in your community, in the country and elsewhere, and it is a good thing if a Jewish community can have some reserves against those emergencies.”

Third, an endowment is useful “to make available to the Federation monies for what we call constructive purposes—special projects, studies, research activities—one-time needs. They cover things which are very desirable, in some cases more desirable than some things we budget our money for, but which cannot compete with welfare fund or community fund money in the budget process.”

Fourth, it “helps with future building programs.”

The methods employed in Cleveland for the development of that city's Federation endowment fund included six seminars, spaced about 18 months apart, with lawyers, accountants, and trust officers. The thinking behind bequests for endowment funds was outlined at these seminars. In some cases, insurance experts are also brought into these interpretive sessions.

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### **CLEARINGHOUSE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH IN THE JEWISH FIELD**

THE YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (1048 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N.Y.) has established a Clearinghouse and index to Jewish subjects in current American humanistic and social research. All scholars engaged in research (including doctoral dissertations and M.A. theses) in which Jewish topics or materials are separately identifiable are invited to fill out a brief questionnaire which will be supplied upon request. Cooperating scholars will receive an annual list of studies registered with

the Clearinghouse as either completed or in progress.

### HELP FOR RETIRED PERSONS

IN some American cities, with the National Council of Jewish Women acting as catalyst, a new partnership is emerging among retired persons, youngsters, business concerns and welfare agencies.

Volunteer service corps for senior citizens, in which retired persons will volunteer for work in undermanned health, welfare and educational services, are under formation in 18 cities.

Industrial companies are cooperating in founding the corps, in order to help create a future for their own retired workers. Many schools, youth-serving groups, and other welfare agencies are reported eager for the assistance of elderly volunteers, according to the results of initial surveys.

### DISABLED AGED HELPED TO FIND JOBS

SEVERELY disabled men and women over 55 can be returned to remunerative employment, according to findings of a four-year pilot project recently concluded by New York's Federation Employment and Guidance Service in cooperation with Federal agencies. A total of 835 individuals were served in the project. Of the 582 persons who completed the program according to the agency's plan, 79 per cent achieved one or more job placements. A total of 1,043 jobs was obtained.

The mass of evidence gathered in the

study supports the conclusion that the double barriers of age and disability need not bar persons, who have a strong desire to continue working and who receive intensive vocational rehabilitation service, from gainful employment.

A profile of the typical client follows: 63 years of age, unemployed approximately two years prior to the project, and suffering two disabilities. Men tended to outnumber women four to one among those who came for FECS rehabilitation services. Only about one in ten (men and women both) were rated as being not placeable at any level of employment.

Follow-up confirmed the fact that 50 per cent of all clients entering employment tended to stay on their jobs six months or more and to be reasonably adjusted to their work situations.

### A NEW KIND OF AWARD

ONE of the first awards of its kind in the social welfare field has been established by the Jewish Child Care Association of New York. An award of \$1,000 will be made to a JCCA caseworker who has consistently rendered service of superior quality to the agency's clients.

Known as the Walter E. Harris Award, for its donor who is associate treasurer of the Association, it will make possible participation by the recipient in the International Conference of Social Work in Athens, Greece, in September, 1964, as a member of the United States delegation.

The award winner will be chosen by an administrative staff committee of the Association.