

# Propose Central School Bureau For Tri-State Section

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Professor Abrams has just completed a comprehensive study of Jewish Education in Pittsburgh, dating back from 1916, when the Hebrew Institute which he heads first opened. His findings, being presented exclusively in "The Outlook," treat of the early history of Jewish Education here, problems confronting the community, possible solutions and comparisons with other major centers. Today's article is the fifth and last in the series.

See "Jewry In Focus," Page 4.

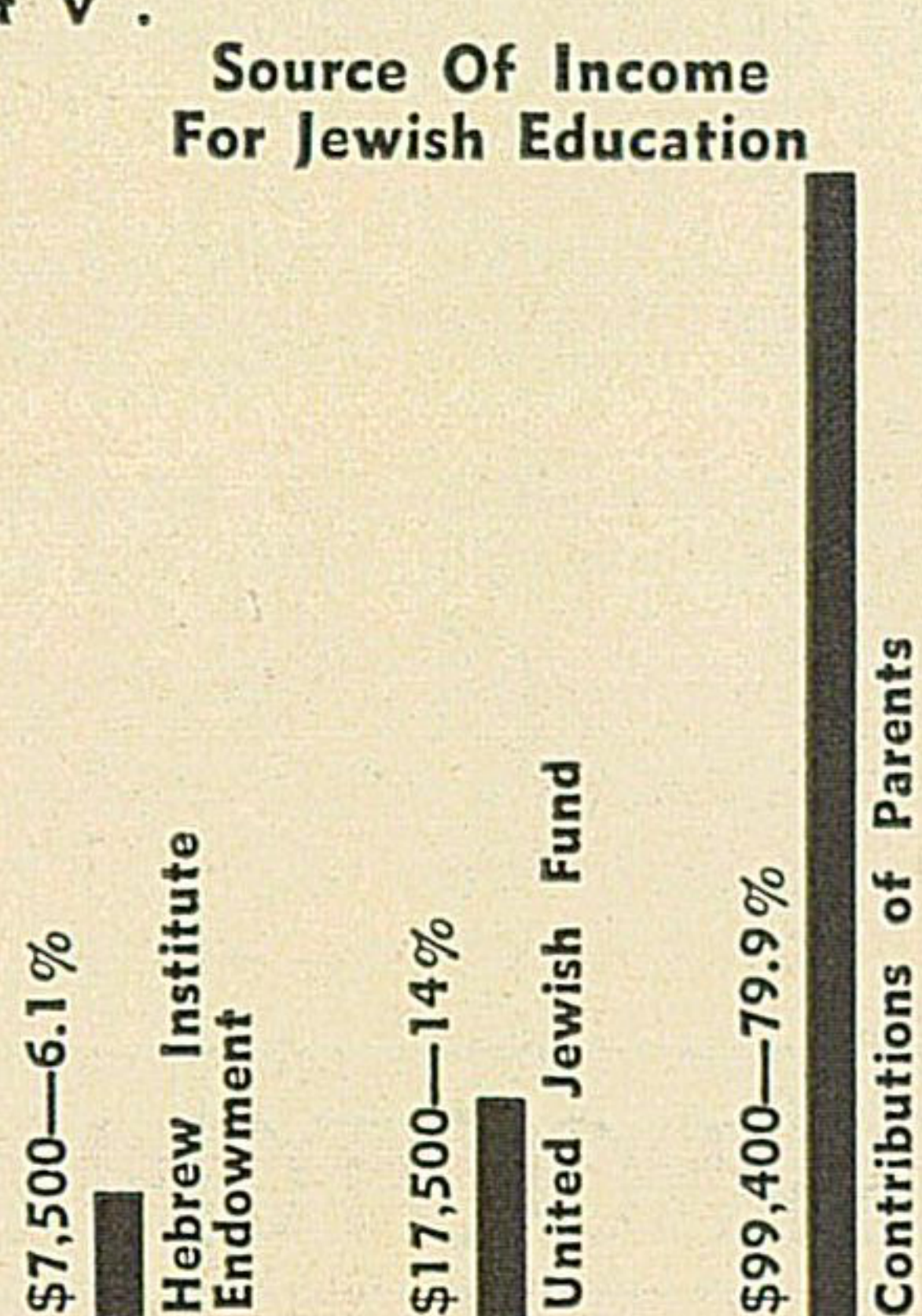
IN MOST of the smaller communities, the Jewish settlers are well established financially and are Jewishly-and-communally minded. Many of them have synagogue buildings and the larger ones have rabbis as spiritual leaders. Very few of them have well organized Hebrew schools. While they do have teachers to instruct the children, they lack organization, content, method, direction and supervision. From time to time they ask the Hebrew Institute for guidance and advice. In order to organize a well systematized Jewish Educational Project for these smaller communities it would be necessary to unite them under a Central Bureau whose function it would be to organize, systemize, and supervise the work. These smaller communities could carry the financial burden of such a Bureau and it would not be necessary for Pittsburgh to assist them financially.

### Solution Of Problem

IT IS, THEREFORE, OUR plan:

1. To endeavor to interest high school students to enroll at the College of Jewish Studies and to provide facilities for other high school students for studies in Judaism in their neighborhood schools;
2. To study the problem of the 1,758 unaffiliated children: to increase the present enrollment in the Hebrew Schools and Sunday Schools by at least 20%; to organize the unaffiliated into home study groups and to introduce the study of Judaism through correspondence;
3. To train an efficient staff of teachers and supervisors for the existing Hebrew Schools and Sunday Schools of the city and its environs; to make the work of the existing schools more efficient;

Chart V .



4. To organize at Pittsburgh a Central Bureau for the Tri-State Area for the purpose of supervising the Jewish Schools in the smaller communities surrounding Pittsburgh;
5. To plan and assist in the formation of new schools wherever needed; to unite smaller units and include them in the system;
6. To publish Jewish educational material for distribution to schools in the neighborhood;
7. To build up a reference department for the library of the Hebrew Institute for the use of teachers and student body.

To carry out this plan the Community would need to appropriate a larger sum for Jewish Education. A 20% increase in enrollment in the schools would mean an increase in the annual budget of \$24,880. To provide religious instruction for the 2,100 high school students for three hours per week would cost the community as much as the present Sunday School yearly expenditure: i.e. \$14,500. To make the work of the present volunteer Sunday School teachers more efficient, it would be necessary to raise the standards and to pay them for their services—an additional expenditure of \$5,000 a year. Publication of material would amount to \$2,000, and additional supervision and assistance to smaller units—\$5,000. This would mean a total increase in the budget of \$51,380. If we assume that the parents would contribute approximately 75% of this amount, it would be necessary for the United Jewish Fund to add a minimum of \$12,845 to the present allotment for Jewish Education. (See accompanying Chart V).

This plan, if carried out, would raise the standard of Jewish Education in the entire district, would contribute greatly to the strengthening of our Jewish cultural life, and would develop a much finer American Jewish citizenry.

### In Other Communities

**BALTIMORE:** OF THE ESTIMATED 11,000 Jewish children in Baltimore, about 35% receive some kind of a Jewish education. The Bureau of Jewish Education does not own any buildings but supports the Hebrew College, and subsidizes 6 out of the 9 schools affiliated with the Bureau, while the Parochial School, one of the largest in Baltimore, the Talmud Torah ve-ha-Emunah and the Yeshibah, and most of the congregational schools are independent of the Bureau. The schools of the Bureau have their own boards of directors but send representatives to a Central Board which controls the Bureau. The city of Baltimore spends approximately \$250,000 a year on Jewish Education. Of this amount the Bureau spends about \$125,000 and of the latter amount \$50,000 is appropriated by the Federation of Jewish Charities. The Parochial School and the Yeshibah spend \$75,000.

**Detroit:** In Detroit the system of Jewish Education is more centralized. There, the Central Board erected five Hebrew School buildings. The schools are united under the name of the United Hebrew Schools of Detroit. Due to the fact, however, that the buildings were heavily mortgaged, four of these five buildings were taken away when payments on the mortgages were not met. The classes, therefore, are now conducted in public school buildings. Of the 11,000 Jewish children, about 40% receive a Jewish training. Of the 18 schools in the city, 13 small schools are not affiliated. Detroit spends \$200,000 a year on Jewish Education and receives from the Central Fund \$37,500.

### Situation In Chicago

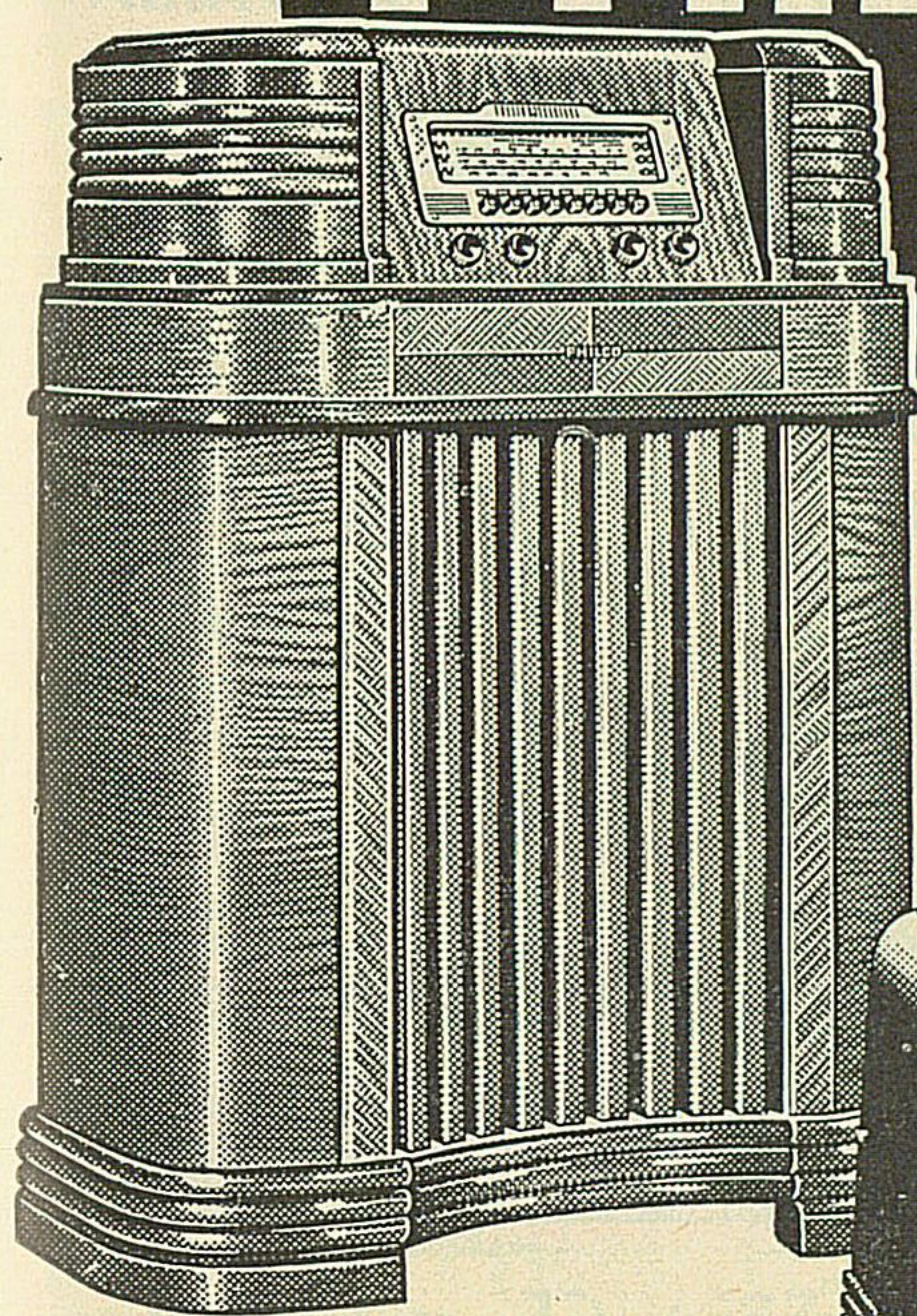
**CHICAGO:** OF THE 45,000 Jewish children in Chicago, about 25% receive some kind of Jewish Education. The Bureau does not own any school buildings but supports the College of Jewish Studies and subsidizes 8 schools out of 26 that are in the system, and offers supervision to the other 18. The orthodox schools are independent of the Bureau and are organized under the Central Board of Jewish Education and raise their own funds for the maintenance of their own institutions. The schools under the Bureau spend about \$325,000 of which the United Jewish Charities contribute \$89,000. What the other schools spend is very difficult to estimate.

### Nazis Give Up Prisoners

WILNO, Apr. 4. (JTA).—Eight hundred Polish war prisoners entitled to Lithuanian citizenship have been released from German internment camps and are on their way home by way of Russia.

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