

# Canada LPP Restores Salsberg to Top Body

TORONTO.

THE National Committee of the Labor-Progressive Party has announced that at its meeting in May, J. B. Salsberg, long time leader of the Party in Canada, was reinstated to the National Executive of that organization. This information was made public in a special statement issued by the LPP over the weekend.

Drawing attention to the fact that in 1949 differences of opinion developed between Salsberg and the majority of the LPP National Executive over dissolution of the Soviet Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, the closing down of Jewish cultural institutions and the disappearance of a number of prominent Jewish writers, the statement declares that "viewed in the light of recent events and on the basis of facts now available it is clear that . . . J. B. Salsberg was right and the majority of the National Executive wrong."

The statement follows:

"The National Committee of the Labor-Progressive Party at its recent session elected J. B. Salsberg to its Executive Committee, a position he occupied continuously in our Party leadership from 1934 until the National Convention in 1954, when he was not elected to the Executive.

Difference of opinion between J. B. Salsberg and the rest of the

National Executive developed and persisted from 1949, when he first declared that the dissolution of Jewish cultural institutions in the USSR and action against prominent Jewish writers had been carried out by crude administrative means, without public discussion and in disregard of the interests and desires of Soviet Jewry.

He therefore advocated intervention by the Labor-Progressive Party in the form of a direct enquiry to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union asking for an explanation.

The Executive, and later, the full National Committee, rejected Comrade Salsberg's proposal and supported the position that:

- Jewish citizens in the USSR had become such an integral part of socialist society that there was no longer any real desire on their part for separate Yiddish language institutions;

- Dissolution of those institutions was part of the normal process of development;

- Any measures against individual Jewish citizens could only have resulted from infractions of the law and were taken under the law.

Comrade Salsberg, while agreeing fully that the process of integration was a natural development in a socialist society, nevertheless maintained that the abrupt dissolution of Jewish in-



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stitutions and the sudden curtailment of Jewish cultural activity were not adequately explained by such a development.

At the time the National Executive did not publicize the details of its disagreement with Comrade Salsberg. Instead, it limited itself to the organization of intensive discussion of the question in conferences of party workers, mainly those who are keenly concerned with the interests of the Jewish community

in Canada.

Comrade Salsberg abstained from participation in these discussions and, while continuing to play an active part in all other phases of party work and discharging his other functions as a member of the National Committee, he withdrew from participation in the work of the Jewish National Committee of the Party.

While the differences described above persisted and were the subject of almost continuous discussion from 1949 onward, they were not the direct cause of Comrade Salsberg's removal from the Secretariat in 1953, and from the National Executive in 1954. These actions were taken because of his refusal to adhere to well established party principles of accepting and defending the position adopted by the majority of the National Committee. It should be noted, however, that Comrade Salsberg likewise refrained from putting forward publicly his own position.

Viewed in the light of recent events, and on the basis of facts now available, it is clear that in the original difference as to whether the dissolution of Jewish cultural institutions in the USSR resulted from the integration of its Jewish citizens in the general cultural community and whether the Labor-Progressive Party should or should not have asked

for the reasons for such dissolution and the subsequent action against prominent Jewish writers, J. B. Salsberg was right and the majority of the National Executive wrong.

Even if the Executive had been correct in its interpretation of the events which gave rise to disagreement with J. B. Salsberg, it was without justification in rejecting his reasonable request that an inquiry be directed to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union requesting a fuller explanation. In so doing it placed an unnecessary obstacle in the way of overcoming its differences with a valued colleague, and thus contributed to the situation which brought about his removal from the Executive.

In recognition of its own error and of the fact that other points of difference will be dealt with as part of its pre-convention discussion, the National Committee unanimously re-elected J. B. Salsberg to its Executive and thus restored him to the party which he has served so faithfully for so many years.

The Labor-Progressive Party also made it known that in addition to his reinstatement to the National Executive, Mr. Salsberg will now return to his former position as a member of the Party's National Jewish Committee.