NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS 1946-52
There your letter of May 28 to your ecclesiastics. I regret I do not have any magazine connections which might be of any help to you. Your figures are not those I have been given recently. I hate you showed mercy these.
May 28, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
Apt. 6A
New York, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am enclosing the copy of an article I wrote last week, and would like you to read it and pass on any comment you may have.

The original was sent to United Jewish Appeal Headquarters in New York for whom, as you know, I have done considerable speaking. I thought they might desire to use it in some way.

If they do not wish to use it, do you have any magazine connections that might possibly use the article? I remember you tried to place a poem for me which I wrote while I was at sea.

I am also enclosing a brochure on myself which is used here at the office, in the event any magazine would want the article.

My interest in the Palestine situation, more specifically the problem confronting the Jews in Europe, continues to mount. I wish that I might have an opportunity to work on some of the Commissions dealing with the problem. I offered my services to President Truman a year ago, but there was no response.

I trust this finds you in the best of health.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Karl B. Justus
Associate Director
Karl B. Justus joined the Western Division Staff of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in October 1946. He is now the Associate Director for the San Francisco Office of the Conference. He is the author of many magazine articles, and of a book published in October 1946, by Duell, Sloan and Pearce in New York City, entitled, "WHAT'S WRONG WITH RELIGION?", not an attack on religion, but a plea for greater understanding and unity among all peoples and faiths and a plea for the nations to cooperate in effecting "One World".

In the Spring of 1946 Mr. Justus made a coast-to-coast tour for the United Jewish Appeal - a tour which resulted in the collection of over a quarter of a million dollars for Europe's displaced, homeless Jews.

For fourteen years the former Navy Chaplain has spoken on radio programs, and has spent much time traveling and speaking to forums, service clubs, churches, schools and conventions. He is currently "The Religious News Reporter" on KXRA, heard every Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M.

During his three years as a Navy Chaplain Mr. Justus, as the padre of the combat transport, Crescent City, participated in the invasions of Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Emirau, Guam, Peleliu and Leyte. Returning from the Pacific he was assigned duty as the Administrative Assistant to the Third Naval District Chaplain, New York City, and completed his Navy career there.
WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES AND FOUND WANTING

By Karl B. Justus

Former Naval Chaplain
Associate Director, National Conference of Christians and Jews

it is two years since the end of the battle of bullets and we entered back the enemy.

an era of "peace". Yet as we begin the third year of so-called "peace" the frontal

assault of conflicting ideologies continues unabated. Selfishness, suspicion,

security stalks the globe until the plain John Doe on the streets of the world

under the hatchery of discrimination. And we were right! So right that it

is appalled and chagrined.

Emerging from the global holocaust as victors, the Allies brought

But what happens NOW in Christian America? Having breached the
to an end the immediate problems of battle. The march of dictators in the

enemy's battle ramparts in history, shall we in turn be vanquished by our victim's

Orient and the Occident was stopped — BUT one looks at the world today and

asks himself, "What did the war solve?" Where is the Atlantic Charter?

For the first time since two years immediately after the First World

Communism, Socialism, Totalitarianism and Democracy now jockey for

World War the Ku Klux Klan is on the march again. Fifteen and Banking stalk from the

position in "The Atomic Age" as never before. The repetitiously humorous

Senate Chambers to America's remotest by-ways. The talksters deny the Constitu-

statement of one of radio's famous comedians, Andrew H. Brown, when he says

of the rights of man and usurp the power of state government in Georgia, and

"Boy - is we in a mess" becomes a profound comment when applied to the present

scatter-brained Georgians of his ilk cheer. The Columbians gain the headlines, world.

spread to six states (reportedly) and pledge themselves to anti-Semitism.

It is another matter that causes me concern at this time.

That concern centers around the necessity that someone, with

plight of the Jews in the world today.

Daniel-like boldness, should level a finger of accusation at Christian

anti-Semitism has been a scourge since the time of Egyptian bondage,
civilization and say, "THOU ARE WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES AND FOUND WANTING."

but never in the annals of history has there been such slaughter as that.

Lest many Americans say "hear, hear" and transfer the blame

perpetrated on the Jews of Europe by Hitler.

elsewhere, let me be more specific and say, "CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA IS

Six million Jews were murdered in the gas chambers and slaughter

WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES AND FOUND WANTING." This is not an empty accusation.

houses of Europe, nearly one third of the world Jewish population.

This was not the time to write of such proportions. This in 1930

May we never the face of reality from the gaze of world-stolen to help

the Jews of Europe.
When "Remember Pearl Harbor" became the patriot's watchword, we became as cohesive and powerful as the clenched fist of a giant. Petty bickerings were cast aside; divisions disappeared; schisms were mended; the Cohens, Kellys and Smiths - the white, black, red, yellow skinned - Americans all - united to beat back the enemy.

Yes, we were fighting not only for life, but to win and build a world where men who advocated "A Master Race" would have no place. We decried prejudice and hatred, and championed at the cost of our lives those who were murdered under the butchery of discrimination. And we were right! So right that it gave us physical and moral strength to overcome fanatical resistance.

But what happens NOW in Christian America? Having breached the enemy's battle ramparts in victory, shall we in turn be vanquished by our victim's poisonous ideals?

For the first time since the years immediately after the First World War the Ku Klux Klan is on the march again. Bilbos and Rankins stalk from the Senate Chambers to America's remotest by-ways. The Talmudites deny the Constitutional rights of men and usurp the power of state government in Georgia, and scatter-brained Georgians of his ilk cheer. The Columbians gain the headlines, spread to six states (reportedly) and pledge themselves to anti-Semitism.

With the mention of Anti-Semitism I pause to write concerning the plight of the Jews in the world today.

Anti-Semitism has been a scourge since the time of Egyptian bondage, but never in the annals of history has there been such slaughter as that perpetrated on the Jews of Europe by Hitler.

Six million Jews were murdered in the gas chambers and slaughter houses of Europe, nearly one third of the world Jewish population.
Supposing, for the sake of argument, that the population of Sweden or Denmark was about six or seven million – and that the total population of one of those small countries had been utterly wiped out by Hitler.

IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE REST OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD WOULD HAVE STOOD BY AND SAID AS LITTLE AS THEY HAVE ABOUT THE FACT THAT SIX MILLION JEWS WERE MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD?

A pitiful remnant of 1,500,000 Jews remain in Europe. Of that number 150,000 are children, all that is left of one million and a half prewar Jewish children, and over fifty percent of the remnant are orphans.

We cannot reclaim the dead, but we can help those remaining, who hang between life and death, into a new life if dignity and respectability.

It is at this point that I think Christian America has desperately failed. Those who were hurt first and most had a right to expect to be helped first and most. Yet such is not the case.

Two years after victory in Europe these 1,500,000 people exist in indescribable misery and want. D.P.'s we call them, Displaced Persons, who have no homes, hope, or help except that which, to date, has been drastically inadequate.

Except for the heroic help of the Jews of America their brethren in Europe would have died ere this – and they may yet if the Christians do not rise to assist American Jewry.

Last years the Jews of America raised the colossal sum of $100,000,000 through the United Jewish Appeal to bring relief, rehabilitation, and evacuation to their battered people. This money was well and wisely spent through the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal, and The United Service for New Americans.

This was to be THE one-time drive of such proportions. But in 1947 they undertake the task of raising from the same people $170,000,000 to help the Jews of Europe.
WHY? Because the rest of the world has not cared enough to assist them in large enough measure - and with the ending of UNRRA on June 30th the task becomes even greater.

Christian reader, do YOU KNOW anything of the real plight of those Jews in Europe. Let me briefly describe their situation.

These are they who are the miraculous survivors of modern torture chambers. Buchenwald, Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen was their home. Here they saw their own flesh and blood murdered before their eyes, some of them being sole survivors. In these hell holes they bore shameful, painful indignities I would not wish to describe on a written page.

Two years after victory thousands of them are in the same approximate areas of the concentration camps where horror was heaped upon them. They are desperate with impatience, disgusted with delays, disillusioned with empty hopes. They rot in idleness.

Soup kitchens in these areas, and along the highways of Europe furnish them their miserly diet.

Whereas 85,000 were in the American occupation zone in January 1946, 250,000 now crowd the area because here they feel some refuge from Anti-Semitism.

Oh, yes, Anti-Semitism, is still rampant and in some places in Europe it is worse than it was before the war. How the ghost of Hitler must laugh.

These people long for a new life in a new land, and the majority of them want to go to Palestine but only a trickle reaches there each month.

The Anglo-American Committee on Palestine recommended that 100,000 Jews be admitted to Palestine over a year ago - but Britain remains adamant. Why? It is because the Jews and Arabs could not get along together? Or, is it an economic problem, causing the British to pay blackmail, as it were, to keep Arab oil?
against the recent attempts in some of the cities of America, a few of the Christians are organizing drives to collect funds to supplement the money raised by American Jews to help these hapless people. If there is not a time in a democracy when it can overcome the entire Jewish problem, is one of the most pressing ones. on the international scene, and until something satisfactory is done about it, we will not have world peace. On a jail and lynch him? Having taken the law in their own hands. If the Christians in America do not rise to the challenge of helping this heroic humanitarian effort, they are not worthy of the name Christian.

Hitler didn't kill the Jews just because they were Jews. He did so because as Jews, they stood for certain principles which were opposed to everything he sought to propagate. Namely, passion for justice, love of liberty, a sense of the equality of man, an inherent sense of democracy, a love of, and deference for, family and home. These things are not peculiar to the Jewish tradition alone, but are part and parcel of the Christian tradition. What Hitler sought to kill in the Jew, he sought to kill in the Christian. There is no place in this great, wonderful world. He was not successful, but six million Jews were killed. If the Christians do not help rescue the remaining 1,500,000, Hitler's task will have been completed through our indifference, as surely as though they had succumbed with their brothers in the gas chambers, and that I, as a Navy Chaplain, along with thousands of the Jews in Europe, anti-Semitism abroad and at home, unfortunately, is not the only thing that speaks of failure on our part. We talk about "one world" and speak eloquently of promoting "brotherhood", but prejudice — racial and religious — is more widespread in America than it was before the war. Of the first conviction that until the churches forget their petty divisions. How can we heed the call to arms to beat down legions that advocated a "master race", yet allow a Talmudge and his sympathetic cohort, inside and outside of Georgia, to propagate "White Supremacy". Evidently this is directed
against the Negro, yet the basic principle could be directed against some other group, faith or race. As a democracy we sent troops to the far-flung reaches of the earth to beat down Hitlerism. Is there not a time in a democracy when it can overcome the "Hitlers" who challenge it within and STILL be a democracy?

How can we allow, in Twentieth Century America, twenty-eight men to take a man by force from a jail and lynch him? Having taken the law in their own hands and over-ridden justice, they have become outlaws and done an in-justice. These men signed confessions, yet they were acquitted by a jury.

Of course it didn't matter much, did it, because the man they lynched was a Negro. On the other hand, except for the accident of birth, it might have been YOU!

A southern defense attorney, still fighting the Civil War, said "If they'd stop stirring up prejudice in Northern newspapers maybe we could make up the progress we lost when they laid waste our country seventy-five years ago".

Listen America, Christian America, if you please: There is no place in this great land for the prejudice, hatred, bigotry and hypocrisy that stalks across the nation today.

I love America, but, great though she is, she has many hurdles to jump before she is the America she can be, and that I, as a Navy Chaplain, along with thousands of others, fought for.

I have been criticised for writing my book "What's Wrong With Religion?", the title of which the publisher and I used purposely. Naturally there is nothing wrong with Religion — BUT THERE IS A LOT WRONG WITH THE CHURCH.

I am still of the firm conviction that until the churches forget their petty divisions and give Religion a united front on the basis of their major likenesses, the accusation "Thou Art weighed in the balances and found wanting" will continue to fit us far too well.
April 24, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park
New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We appreciate very much your suggestion that we go ahead with the citation dinner honoring you next Monday night. It so happened however that we had cancelled all arrangements and notified the people planning to attend the dinner that the event is to be postponed. It was impossible there for us to pick up the arrangements again for which I am very sorry. We want you to know however how much we appreciate your willingness to go ahead despite your illness.

We know of your desire to keep your calendar free during the summer months. We also know that your engagements for the fall in connection with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights are not yet fixed.

We are wondering however if there might be a date in late September or October which you might be able to fix at this time. The only exceptions would be the following ones which are Jewish Holy Days - September 15, 16, 24, 29 and 30 and October 6 and 7. Also it would be impossible to have the occasion on any Friday night. If you cannot fix a date at this time we shall wait until you are able to do so.

I have on my desk a lovely citation ready for presentation to you which I know you will like very much and we look forward to the occasion when it can be presented.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Willard Johnson
National Program Director
Arthur - Pending reply
I feel family tree
that General attended
a dinner and snow
at 4 to 9.
August 14, 1947

My dear Mr. Johnson,

I am sorry I now find that I shall not be able to receive the citation on November 25th. The Human Rights Commission meetings have been postponed until the latter part of November and there is a possibility that I may have to go to Geneva.

With many regrets,

Very sincerely yours,
May 14, 1949

My dear Mr. Johnson:

I have received your letter of May 5th and November 25th is satisfactory as far as I can foresee at the present time.

Very sincerely yours,
May 5, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square W. Apt. 6
New York City

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

We shall appreciate it very much if you will reserve the evening of November 25 for the presentation of the citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Will you please confirm this date for us?

With all good wishes for a restful summer,

I am

Sincerely yours,

Willard Johnson
National Program Director

[Handwritten note: "Tell Long Beach.""]