

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:09,480

2

00:00:09,480 --> 00:00:12,900

(film slating)

3

00:00:12,900 --> 00:00:17,790

Well, you said that if the  
real, adequate pressure would

4

00:00:17,790 --> 00:00:21,000

have been exerted on  
Roosevelt, for instance,

5

00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:23,850

that things would have changed.

6

00:00:23,850 --> 00:00:24,900

Correct.

7

00:00:24,900 --> 00:00:29,850

OK, but I say, you had in  
Europe 6 million Jews who

8

00:00:29,850 --> 00:00:32,760

were in the hands of the Nazi--

9

00:00:32,760 --> 00:00:36,210

a lot of them were being  
already exterminated.

10

00:00:36,210 --> 00:00:43,200

You had America, let's say,  
about the same number of Jews,

11

00:00:43,200 --> 00:00:47,140

which could be considered  
as a crucial group.

12

00:00:47,140 --> 00:00:49,456

But it's not so much too.

13

00:00:49,456 --> 00:00:54,150

And I wonder if what  
you say is true.

14

00:00:54,150 --> 00:00:57,750

And it's the reason why  
I have to ask you now

15

00:00:57,750 --> 00:01:00,180

what could have been done  
and how these things could

16

00:01:00,180 --> 00:01:01,830

have been done.

17

00:01:01,830 --> 00:01:05,970

Well, many things could have  
been done if the principle--

18

00:01:05,970 --> 00:01:10,530

that our main proposal was  
that the president establish

19

00:01:10,530 --> 00:01:12,478

a commission to  
rescue the remnants

20

00:01:12,478 --> 00:01:13,770

of the Jewish people of Europe.

21

00:01:13,770 --> 00:01:17,700

If it was accepted  
as a task, as a war

22

00:01:17,700 --> 00:01:19,720

aim it would have been done.

23

00:01:19,720 --> 00:01:22,920

Then, since it wasn't done,  
we started throwing ideas.

24

00:01:22,920 --> 00:01:25,110  
And I'll tell you a  
couple of these ideas.

25  
00:01:25,110 --> 00:01:26,510  
Other people had some ideas.

26  
00:01:26,510 --> 00:01:29,370  
The famous idea of  
bombing Auschwitz.

27  
00:01:29,370 --> 00:01:30,840  
Wouldn't have  
saved so many Jews,

28  
00:01:30,840 --> 00:01:32,730  
but it could have had  
a psychological effect

29  
00:01:32,730 --> 00:01:33,720  
and saved some Jews.

30  
00:01:33,720 --> 00:01:36,060  
The idea of putting  
a monkey wrench

31  
00:01:36,060 --> 00:01:37,860  
into the extermination machine.

32  
00:01:37,860 --> 00:01:40,200  
We advanced a much  
more radical idea,

33  
00:01:40,200 --> 00:01:42,690  
which could have stopped the  
extermination in stripes.

34  
00:01:42,690 --> 00:01:43,328  
For instance.

35  
00:01:43,328 --> 00:01:45,120  
For instance, no, that's  
a practical thing.

36  
00:01:45,120 --> 00:01:45,953  
Here's the document.

37  
00:01:45,953 --> 00:01:47,670  
You can see, this  
is a letter of mine

38  
00:01:47,670 --> 00:01:50,520  
as Chairman of Hebrew Committee  
to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

39  
00:01:50,520 --> 00:01:51,270  
OK.

40  
00:01:51,270 --> 00:01:52,980  
Which was considered  
in a special meeting

41  
00:01:52,980 --> 00:01:55,380  
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

42  
00:01:55,380 --> 00:01:57,780  
And they decided, and  
rightly so, in my opinion,

43  
00:01:57,780 --> 00:02:00,210  
that this was a political issue.

44  
00:02:00,210 --> 00:02:01,693  
But we did this  
while we were still

45  
00:02:01,693 --> 00:02:04,110  
pressuring the State Department,  
and Roosevelt and the War

46  
00:02:04,110 --> 00:02:06,690  
Refugee Board to adopt it.

47  
00:02:06,690 --> 00:02:10,650  
The Allies warned

the Germans not

48

00:02:10,650 --> 00:02:13,110

to use poison gas against  
any of the peoples

49

00:02:13,110 --> 00:02:20,010

within their occupation or that  
they will retaliate by using

50

00:02:20,010 --> 00:02:21,660

poison gas against Germany.

51

00:02:21,660 --> 00:02:23,820

And as is seen from  
these documents,

52

00:02:23,820 --> 00:02:28,200

there was a plan of using  
poison gas if necessary.

53

00:02:28,200 --> 00:02:30,270

As they say to us,  
they've examined it

54

00:02:30,270 --> 00:02:31,980

in the light of this plan.

55

00:02:31,980 --> 00:02:35,860

We immediately cabled  
to Roosevelt, Churchill,

56

00:02:35,860 --> 00:02:37,500

and Stalin, but  
especially started

57

00:02:37,500 --> 00:02:39,930

pressuring the White House.

58

00:02:39,930 --> 00:02:40,860

This was in '44.

59

00:02:40,860 --> 00:02:43,740

It was late, but there were  
still a lot of Jews alive.

60

00:02:43,740 --> 00:02:48,570

That it's a known fact that the  
Germans are using gas on Jews.

61

00:02:48,570 --> 00:02:51,840

And therefore, by  
ignoring it they

62

00:02:51,840 --> 00:02:53,490

are really strengthening,  
as we said,

63

00:02:53,490 --> 00:02:55,980

to the criminal Nazi mind  
this is an encouragement

64

00:02:55,980 --> 00:02:57,570

in the murderous effects.

65

00:02:57,570 --> 00:03:02,000

And we demanded that gas--

66

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:04,130

that Germany be given  
an official warning

67

00:03:04,130 --> 00:03:07,340

to stop using the  
gas against the Jews.

68

00:03:07,340 --> 00:03:09,560

And if they don't  
stop, that poison gas

69

00:03:09,560 --> 00:03:11,250

be used against Germany.

70

00:03:11,250 --> 00:03:13,180

Now this was a very

shocking proposition.

71

00:03:13,180 --> 00:03:15,050

And the bombing of Germans--

72

00:03:15,050 --> 00:03:16,490

With gas, of course.

73

00:03:16,490 --> 00:03:17,640

Of course.

74

00:03:17,640 --> 00:03:20,030

Why did they say they'll

do it if they did it

75

00:03:20,030 --> 00:03:21,670

to Greeks or to Poles?

76

00:03:21,670 --> 00:03:25,940

Are Jews less human beings

than Greeks or Poles?

77

00:03:25,940 --> 00:03:28,640

The same thing as the

story of a Jewish war.

78

00:03:28,640 --> 00:03:30,140

Who were the Americans fighting?

79

00:03:30,140 --> 00:03:31,765

Weren't they fighting

for other people?

80

00:03:31,765 --> 00:03:33,980

For Scotsmen?

81

00:03:33,980 --> 00:03:35,750

For Englishmen, for Frenchmen?

82

00:03:35,750 --> 00:03:37,855

Why are the Jews any

worse than any of these?

83  
00:03:37,855 --> 00:03:39,980  
To the degree that America  
was fighting for itself,

84  
00:03:39,980 --> 00:03:42,313  
it really didn't make any  
difference what kind of a name

85  
00:03:42,313 --> 00:03:44,360  
you give to the war.

86  
00:03:44,360 --> 00:03:47,540  
But the poison gas is the  
whole tragedy of the issue.

87  
00:03:47,540 --> 00:03:51,830  
Because there they were on  
record threatening to use gas.

88  
00:03:51,830 --> 00:03:53,570  
And it worked.

89  
00:03:53,570 --> 00:03:56,240  
Because the Germans did not  
use poison gas on anybody

90  
00:03:56,240 --> 00:03:57,800  
except on the Jews.

91  
00:03:57,800 --> 00:04:05,340  
And they refused-- here is where  
Roosevelt acted criminally.

92  
00:04:05,340 --> 00:04:09,550  
Because they refused to include  
the Jews in the warning.

93  
00:04:09,550 --> 00:04:12,390  
They have joined the  
de-humanization of the Jews.

94

00:04:12,390 --> 00:04:15,720  
Because the Jews are not  
worthy of retaliation.

95  
00:04:15,720 --> 00:04:20,880  
If you kill Jews with gas, then  
the Germans are safe in Berlin.

96  
00:04:20,880 --> 00:04:23,460  
And when I included,  
in the first speech

97  
00:04:23,460 --> 00:04:25,710  
I made as Chairman of the  
Hebrew Committee of National

98  
00:04:25,710 --> 00:04:30,030  
Liberation, in a public  
meeting in New York, which

99  
00:04:30,030 --> 00:04:32,640  
was broadcast on the radio  
station of The New York Times,

100  
00:04:32,640 --> 00:04:35,550  
when I included this  
as a concrete proposal,

101  
00:04:35,550 --> 00:04:37,650  
everybody was aghast.

102  
00:04:37,650 --> 00:04:39,150  
They thought it's  
a lot of chutzpah.

103  
00:04:39,150 --> 00:04:43,560  
And to me, this was a minimal  
thing that the Jew thinks

104  
00:04:43,560 --> 00:04:46,020  
he's also a human being and  
cannot separate the two.

105

00:04:46,020 --> 00:04:49,110

I'm not first a Jew and then  
a human being or vise versa.

106

00:04:49,110 --> 00:04:50,630

To me, it's the same thing.

107

00:04:50,630 --> 00:04:54,280

I normally advocate  
such an idea.

108

00:04:54,280 --> 00:04:57,690

Now the threat of  
use of poison gas

109

00:04:57,690 --> 00:05:01,510

would have reduced  
extermination to a trickle.

110

00:05:01,510 --> 00:05:04,320

They would have continued  
killing Jews with machine guns.

111

00:05:04,320 --> 00:05:07,362

But it takes a lot longer time  
to kill a person with a machine

112

00:05:07,362 --> 00:05:09,570

gun than it takes to do it  
wholesale with poison gas.

113

00:05:09,570 --> 00:05:11,790

What was the proposal?

114

00:05:11,790 --> 00:05:14,800

We had proposals  
before that, which

115

00:05:14,800 --> 00:05:17,520

you see in one of  
those ads, to establish

116

00:05:17,520 --> 00:05:25,050

in Turkey a 25-mile refuge,  
25 square miles where

117  
00:05:25,050 --> 00:05:28,470  
the Allies would guarantee  
to feed the people there

118  
00:05:28,470 --> 00:05:31,890  
if they managed to get there on  
their own or be brought there.

119  
00:05:31,890 --> 00:05:34,650  
And guarantee the  
Turks to take them out

120  
00:05:34,650 --> 00:05:36,270  
without mentioning Palestine.

121  
00:05:36,270 --> 00:05:38,070  
Again, the key of  
the question was

122  
00:05:38,070 --> 00:05:41,040  
to separate this, to cut it  
off from the political issue

123  
00:05:41,040 --> 00:05:43,600  
of Palestine, which got  
the British so adamant.

124  
00:05:43,600 --> 00:05:44,100  
Why?

125  
00:05:44,100 --> 00:05:44,940  
Why?

126  
00:05:44,940 --> 00:05:48,088  
Because the British  
were concerned.

127  
00:05:48,088 --> 00:05:49,380  
I am not trying to defend them.

128

00:05:49,380 --> 00:05:53,160

I think that their attitude  
was completely criminal.

129

00:05:53,160 --> 00:05:55,320

They were concerned that  
if there will be Jews,

130

00:05:55,320 --> 00:05:56,730

where will we put them?

131

00:05:56,730 --> 00:05:58,710

And the pressure of  
the surviving Jews

132

00:05:58,710 --> 00:06:00,840

then would be towards Palestine.

133

00:06:00,840 --> 00:06:03,570

And they were concerned with  
keeping their imperial position

134

00:06:03,570 --> 00:06:04,800

in Palestine.

135

00:06:04,800 --> 00:06:07,410

But the Americans didn't  
have this consideration.

136

00:06:07,410 --> 00:06:12,210

Yes, but this was an  
ideology of the Zionists--

137

00:06:12,210 --> 00:06:14,010

Well, that's the whole tragedy.

138

00:06:14,010 --> 00:06:16,200

That's the whole  
tragedy, where--

139

00:06:16,200 --> 00:06:17,880

that's what we

try to break away.

140  
00:06:17,880 --> 00:06:21,390  
I told you before  
that I, as a result

141  
00:06:21,390 --> 00:06:24,730  
of this bankruptcy of  
Zionism, because if you

142  
00:06:24,730 --> 00:06:26,730  
don't want to save Jews  
because of Zionism, then

143  
00:06:26,730 --> 00:06:29,700  
what the hell is Zionism?

144  
00:06:29,700 --> 00:06:32,292  
Explain this more, please.

145  
00:06:32,292 --> 00:06:33,750  
Because the whole  
purpose, you see,

146  
00:06:33,750 --> 00:06:43,290  
they became victims of mystical  
ideology, of Zionist redemption

147  
00:06:43,290 --> 00:06:48,510  
between an emotional,  
spiritual yearning.

148  
00:06:48,510 --> 00:06:50,760  
Whereas, first of  
all, there should

149  
00:06:50,760 --> 00:06:56,220  
have been the physical  
salvation of a human being,

150  
00:06:56,220 --> 00:06:58,230  
of the Jews of Eastern Europe.

151

00:06:58,230 --> 00:07:01,560

And the minute the life of that  
human being was threatened,

152

00:07:01,560 --> 00:07:03,630

everything else  
became irrelevant.

153

00:07:03,630 --> 00:07:06,300

To us it was a  
self-gone conclusion.

154

00:07:06,300 --> 00:07:09,510

And we couldn't-- on this we  
were accused of being traitors

155

00:07:09,510 --> 00:07:11,100

to Zionism.

156

00:07:11,100 --> 00:07:14,490

And I say this is Zionism,  
I'm not a Zionist.

157

00:07:14,490 --> 00:07:16,800

Because you dropped  
Palestine as a--

158

00:07:16,800 --> 00:07:17,940

Well, obviously.

159

00:07:17,940 --> 00:07:21,240

I remember at one meetings  
telling Rabbi Wise, where

160

00:07:21,240 --> 00:07:23,955

he says you have to say  
open the gates of Palestine,

161

00:07:23,955 --> 00:07:26,070

and I said, that's  
like saying, if there

162

00:07:26,070 --> 00:07:28,650  
was a fire in this building  
and I'll manage to run out,

163  
00:07:28,650 --> 00:07:30,840  
I said, outside,  
before you, would you

164  
00:07:30,840 --> 00:07:33,180  
want me to scream Rabbi  
Wise is burning inside,

165  
00:07:33,180 --> 00:07:35,520  
save him, or scream  
Rabbi Wise is burning,

166  
00:07:35,520 --> 00:07:37,398  
save him to the Waldorf Astoria?

167  
00:07:37,398 --> 00:07:39,690  
I said, what's it got to do  
where you'll save you from?

168  
00:07:39,690 --> 00:07:44,050  
The thing to do, to scream,  
is save them and separate it,

169  
00:07:44,050 --> 00:07:46,080  
but they wouldn't.

170  
00:07:46,080 --> 00:07:49,080  
Save them and put them  
wherever it's possible.

171  
00:07:49,080 --> 00:07:51,940  
Not even mention it or  
mention other places.

172  
00:07:51,940 --> 00:07:52,750  
But not mention it.

173  
00:07:52,750 --> 00:07:55,260  
Separate the idea.

174  
00:07:55,260 --> 00:07:57,290  
To put the British in  
the impossible position

175  
00:07:57,290 --> 00:07:59,790  
and to pressure the American  
government, which really wasn't

176  
00:07:59,790 --> 00:08:01,380  
that concerned with Palestine.

177  
00:08:01,380 --> 00:08:05,670  
But when the pressure  
from here was weaker

178  
00:08:05,670 --> 00:08:08,100  
than the pressure from the  
British, there was inaction.

179  
00:08:08,100 --> 00:08:13,750

180  
00:08:13,750 --> 00:08:15,340  
Yes, and what were your--

181  
00:08:15,340 --> 00:08:16,390  
what were the proposals.

182  
00:08:16,390 --> 00:08:17,920  
I think that they were similar.

183  
00:08:17,920 --> 00:08:20,230  
All sorts of proposals.

184  
00:08:20,230 --> 00:08:24,520  
Like, we also repeated this  
proposal of bombing Auschwitz.

185  
00:08:24,520 --> 00:08:28,760  
And it wasn't it  
wasn't carried out.

186  
00:08:28,760 --> 00:08:33,289  
Because of-- even though  
the Allies later on

187  
00:08:33,289 --> 00:08:38,419  
were bombing about 5-10  
miles away from Auschwitz.

188  
00:08:38,419 --> 00:08:42,620  
And they didn't do it  
because the basic thesis

189  
00:08:42,620 --> 00:08:45,740  
that it is the  
task of the Allies

190  
00:08:45,740 --> 00:08:49,490  
to save the Jews  
was not accepted.

191  
00:08:49,490 --> 00:08:50,570  
This was not accepted.

192  
00:08:50,570 --> 00:08:52,910  
When this was not  
accepted, it was clear

193  
00:08:52,910 --> 00:08:55,190  
that the general staff,  
the Joint Chiefs of Staff

194  
00:08:55,190 --> 00:08:57,230  
will reject the gas  
idea because they

195  
00:08:57,230 --> 00:08:58,630  
said it's a political idea.

196  
00:08:58,630 --> 00:09:00,560  
Each item then became  
a political idea.

197

00:09:00,560 --> 00:09:05,300

Because the overall policy was  
that the only thing we can do

198

00:09:05,300 --> 00:09:06,620

is win the general war.

199

00:09:06,620 --> 00:09:12,230

Except you couldn't--  
this was a cynical escape,

200

00:09:12,230 --> 00:09:14,783

which unfortunately many of  
the Jewish leaders bought.

201

00:09:14,783 --> 00:09:16,450

They said, and after  
all there is a war.

202

00:09:16,450 --> 00:09:18,283

And the only thing we  
can do is win the war.

203

00:09:18,283 --> 00:09:22,010

The say, if you are not going  
to fight this war extermination

204

00:09:22,010 --> 00:09:24,590

separately, there'll be no Jews  
to save when the war is over,

205

00:09:24,590 --> 00:09:26,090

which is more or  
less what happened.

206

00:09:26,090 --> 00:09:28,631

There were a few  
hundred thousand left.

207

00:09:28,631 --> 00:09:32,990

Yes, but do you think that even  
if the Jews would have exerted

208

00:09:32,990 --> 00:09:37,700

adequate pressure, as I said,  
do you think that the Allied

209

00:09:37,700 --> 00:09:40,130

powers would have been able--

210

00:09:40,130 --> 00:09:41,380

The United States government--

211

00:09:41,380 --> 00:09:43,505

--or willing to launch a  
separate, a specific war--

212

00:09:43,505 --> 00:09:44,360

In my opinion--

213

00:09:44,360 --> 00:09:46,460

to save specifically the Jews?

214

00:09:46,460 --> 00:09:51,450

In my opinion, Claude,  
it's maybe tragic,

215

00:09:51,450 --> 00:09:53,220

maybe I would be a  
happier human being

216

00:09:53,220 --> 00:09:56,730

if I didn't feel so convinced,  
because you're overlooking here

217

00:09:56,730 --> 00:09:59,540

a major thing. and  
this is the non-Jews.

218

00:09:59,540 --> 00:10:01,640

The Emergency Committee  
to Save the Jewish people

219

00:10:01,640 --> 00:10:05,180

of Europe attracted hundreds

of the most prominent people

220

00:10:05,180 --> 00:10:08,000

in the United States, who were  
immediately bombarded by Jews--

221

00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:08,540

In the Jewish Committee.

222

00:10:08,540 --> 00:10:10,832

In our committee, but imagine  
if the other Jews did it,

223

00:10:10,832 --> 00:10:13,340

they would have  
gotten more non-Jews.

224

00:10:13,340 --> 00:10:19,130

You are-- you speak as if only  
the Jews would have acted.

225

00:10:19,130 --> 00:10:23,240

If the Jews would have led the  
action of the American people

226

00:10:23,240 --> 00:10:24,860

demanding from their  
government, it's

227

00:10:24,860 --> 00:10:27,950

the American people who  
would have forced them.

228

00:10:27,950 --> 00:10:31,880

It isn't the Jews, who today  
in this post-Holocaust era

229

00:10:31,880 --> 00:10:36,020

have mobilized the support  
of the administration

230

00:10:36,020 --> 00:10:37,820

behind Israel.

231  
00:10:37,820 --> 00:10:42,530  
It is because the Jews  
went ahead and forged

232  
00:10:42,530 --> 00:10:44,753  
support of the American people.

233  
00:10:44,753 --> 00:10:47,420  
And if they're going to lose the  
support of the American people,

234  
00:10:47,420 --> 00:10:48,680  
the Jews alone can't do it.

235  
00:10:48,680 --> 00:10:51,990  
I never suggested-- you  
misunderstood me fundamentally

236  
00:10:51,990 --> 00:10:54,140  
if you thought that I  
thought that the Jews alone

237  
00:10:54,140 --> 00:10:58,670  
could have dictated a policy to  
the Roosevelt administration.

238  
00:10:58,670 --> 00:11:01,278  
The tradition, the way it  
was, was that Jewish matters

239  
00:11:01,278 --> 00:11:01,820  
are separate.

240  
00:11:01,820 --> 00:11:03,710  
The Jews keep it apart.

241  
00:11:03,710 --> 00:11:06,290  
Many non-Jews thought  
that they don't

242  
00:11:06,290 --> 00:11:08,840

want to interfere in  
internal affairs of Jews.

243  
00:11:08,840 --> 00:11:09,800  
Many people quit.

244  
00:11:09,800 --> 00:11:21,530

245  
00:11:21,530 --> 00:11:26,590  
Well, you had said  
that the Jews alone

246  
00:11:26,590 --> 00:11:29,380  
would have been unable to do--

247  
00:11:29,380 --> 00:11:31,870  
to achieve something,  
but that they could have

248  
00:11:31,870 --> 00:11:39,820  
enlisted a big part of  
American non-Jewish leading

249  
00:11:39,820 --> 00:11:43,030  
personalities.

250  
00:11:43,030 --> 00:11:47,560  
And that this would have helped  
to create support for pressure

251  
00:11:47,560 --> 00:11:49,060  
on the people of  
the [INAUDIBLE]----

252  
00:11:49,060 --> 00:11:50,132  
Sure.

253  
00:11:50,132 --> 00:11:51,985  
--and Roosevelt too.

254  
00:11:51,985 --> 00:11:53,660

But I ask you this.

255

00:11:53,660 --> 00:11:55,060

Why was it so difficult?

256

00:11:55,060 --> 00:11:59,930

I mean, there is

today very powerful,

257

00:11:59,930 --> 00:12:05,290

let's say, Jewish lobby

in what regards Israel.

258

00:12:05,290 --> 00:12:09,110

Why at the time was

it so difficult?

259

00:12:09,110 --> 00:12:12,760

First of all, was there a

Jewish lobby at the time?

260

00:12:12,760 --> 00:12:16,340

Of course, we organized one.

261

00:12:16,340 --> 00:12:20,170

If I have to say it myself,

there's a pro-Israeli lobby

262

00:12:20,170 --> 00:12:21,190

now.

263

00:12:21,190 --> 00:12:25,390

It was just as easy to

organize it in 1942-43.

264

00:12:25,390 --> 00:12:26,950

And I'm not surmising here.

265

00:12:26,950 --> 00:12:29,630

Because the proof is that

we organized such a lobby.

266

00:12:29,630 --> 00:12:36,062

We had close to 200 congressmen,  
160 some or 70 some congressmen

267

00:12:36,062 --> 00:12:37,770

on our committee, the  
Emergency Committee

268

00:12:37,770 --> 00:12:39,040

to Save the Jews of Europe.

269

00:12:39,040 --> 00:12:40,270

Yeah, but I stop you--

270

00:12:40,270 --> 00:12:41,500

40 senators.

271

00:12:41,500 --> 00:12:42,240

There was a lot.

272

00:12:42,240 --> 00:12:43,900

I stop you immediately,  
because you

273

00:12:43,900 --> 00:12:46,930

said at the beginning  
of this interview

274

00:12:46,930 --> 00:12:51,597

that the Jews, the Jewish  
leaders were petrified by fear.

275

00:12:51,597 --> 00:12:52,097

Mm-hmm.

276

00:12:52,097 --> 00:12:53,290

OK.

277

00:12:53,290 --> 00:12:57,100

Today the Jews, or  
the Jewish lobby--

278

00:12:57,100 --> 00:12:58,105  
Are not petrified.

279  
00:12:58,105 --> 00:12:59,230  
--are not at all petrified.

280  
00:12:59,230 --> 00:12:59,930  
Exactly.

281  
00:12:59,930 --> 00:13:01,310  
OK, there is no fear.

282  
00:13:01,310 --> 00:13:01,810  
Right.

283  
00:13:01,810 --> 00:13:04,910  
OK, I want to understand, was  
is it possible at the time?

284  
00:13:04,910 --> 00:13:06,970  
Because I see that  
thanks to the Holocaust--

285  
00:13:06,970 --> 00:13:08,230  
Possible from the point  
of view of the Jews

286  
00:13:08,230 --> 00:13:09,500  
or the point of view  
of the non-Jews?

287  
00:13:09,500 --> 00:13:10,458  
We were talking about--

288  
00:13:10,458 --> 00:13:12,190  
I am talking about the Jews.

289  
00:13:12,190 --> 00:13:13,210  
The Jews didn't do it.

290  
00:13:13,210 --> 00:13:16,420  
That's also-- the fact

is that they didn't.

291

00:13:16,420 --> 00:13:19,300

Not only didn't they do  
it, but they hampered us.

292

00:13:19,300 --> 00:13:20,890

What I was trying  
to bring out is

293

00:13:20,890 --> 00:13:23,560

that the power--  
you say that-- how

294

00:13:23,560 --> 00:13:27,310

my shul that we could have  
gotten the American government

295

00:13:27,310 --> 00:13:30,130

to adopt a policy  
which would say

296

00:13:30,130 --> 00:13:32,230

that saving the lives  
of the Jews of Europe

297

00:13:32,230 --> 00:13:33,910

is an American aim.

298

00:13:33,910 --> 00:13:36,160

You could do it  
only if you could

299

00:13:36,160 --> 00:13:39,520

mobilize a sufficient segment  
of the American people.

300

00:13:39,520 --> 00:13:40,030

Yes.

301

00:13:40,030 --> 00:13:42,700

You could mobilize, in my  
opinion, the American people.

302  
00:13:42,700 --> 00:13:45,070  
We found it easier to  
mobilize prominent non-Jews

303  
00:13:45,070 --> 00:13:46,540  
than prominent Jews.

304  
00:13:46,540 --> 00:13:48,500  
The Secretary of  
Interior of Roosevelt,

305  
00:13:48,500 --> 00:13:51,820  
a very prominent independent  
man called Harold Ickes,

306  
00:13:51,820 --> 00:13:54,460  
was Honorary Chairman of  
the Emergency Committee

307  
00:13:54,460 --> 00:13:57,490  
to Save the Jews of  
Europe in Washington.

308  
00:13:57,490 --> 00:13:59,800  
So Rabbi Wise wrote him  
a letter threatening him

309  
00:13:59,800 --> 00:14:00,790  
he should resign.

310  
00:14:00,790 --> 00:14:02,080  
Why?

311  
00:14:02,080 --> 00:14:05,470  
This you have to ask-- it's hard  
to send you to ask Rabbi Wise,

312  
00:14:05,470 --> 00:14:06,900  
but I can't answer this.

313  
00:14:06,900 --> 00:14:10,960

314  
00:14:10,960 --> 00:14:13,040  
We handled this before.

315  
00:14:13,040 --> 00:14:13,930  
But this is a fact.

316  
00:14:13,930 --> 00:14:15,400  
I'm telling you facts.

317  
00:14:15,400 --> 00:14:17,830  
And we had, nevertheless--

318  
00:14:17,830 --> 00:14:20,620  
nevertheless, very  
prominent members

319  
00:14:20,620 --> 00:14:23,988  
of the non-Jewish  
community stayed with us.

320  
00:14:23,988 --> 00:14:26,030  
Many probably didn't join  
us we don't know about.

321  
00:14:26,030 --> 00:14:30,550  
Because it was known that  
we are a radical group,

322  
00:14:30,550 --> 00:14:34,240  
that the Jewish  
establishment is against us.

323  
00:14:34,240 --> 00:14:35,320  
And who are we again?

324  
00:14:35,320 --> 00:14:38,540  
We were an emergency committee.

325  
00:14:38,540 --> 00:14:41,513  
At the beginning we managed to

get the most important people

326

00:14:41,513 --> 00:14:42,430  
in the United States--

327

00:14:42,430 --> 00:14:43,570  
Henry Wallace.

328

00:14:43,570 --> 00:14:45,400  
When we organized  
the March of Rabbis

329

00:14:45,400 --> 00:14:49,150  
on Washington, the Vice  
President of the United States,

330

00:14:49,150 --> 00:14:52,420  
by arrangement with us,  
presided over the Senate,

331

00:14:52,420 --> 00:14:55,070  
stopped the session  
of the Senate,

332

00:14:55,070 --> 00:14:58,030  
asked all the senators to come  
out to the steps of the Capitol

333

00:14:58,030 --> 00:15:00,280  
to receive this  
delegation of rabbis.

334

00:15:00,280 --> 00:15:02,710  
And he made a little  
speech to them.

335

00:15:02,710 --> 00:15:04,420  
There are some pictures  
here you can see.

336

00:15:04,420 --> 00:15:05,760  
You can see where  
[INAUDIBLE] speaks.

337  
00:15:05,760 --> 00:15:06,593  
OK, all right, but--

338  
00:15:06,593 --> 00:15:08,560  
Now later on, we got  
to the White House

339  
00:15:08,560 --> 00:15:10,120  
with the same rabbis.

340  
00:15:10,120 --> 00:15:11,920  
We asked for weeks  
an appointment

341  
00:15:11,920 --> 00:15:13,930  
with Roosevelt. We  
didn't get an answer.

342  
00:15:13,930 --> 00:15:15,730  
We didn't know till  
the last minute.

343  
00:15:15,730 --> 00:15:18,280  
And then it comes  
out-- we were not

344  
00:15:18,280 --> 00:15:20,410  
received by Roosevelt. I  
went in with the rabbis

345  
00:15:20,410 --> 00:15:24,025  
as part of a delegation,  
five rabbis and me.

346  
00:15:24,025 --> 00:15:25,840  
They were Orthodox rabbis.

347  
00:15:25,840 --> 00:15:27,615  
And we came in and  
were received by one

348

00:15:27,615 --> 00:15:28,990  
of Roosevelt's  
secretaries, a man

349  
00:15:28,990 --> 00:15:33,190  
called McIntyre, who later  
published a memoir describing

350  
00:15:33,190 --> 00:15:36,370  
the whole story of our pressure  
and the counterpressure

351  
00:15:36,370 --> 00:15:37,960  
to have Roosevelt receives us.

352  
00:15:37,960 --> 00:15:40,120  
And the final line  
is that somebody

353  
00:15:40,120 --> 00:15:42,400  
told Roosevelt these are  
not the kind of Jews you

354  
00:15:42,400 --> 00:15:44,080  
should associate with.

355  
00:15:44,080 --> 00:15:46,180  
And they took Roosevelt  
out of the White House.

356  
00:15:46,180 --> 00:15:47,680  
They told us he's out of town.

357  
00:15:47,680 --> 00:15:49,090  
The next day we  
read in the paper

358  
00:15:49,090 --> 00:15:53,890  
that he was an Air Force base  
dedicating a bomber to Tito.

359  
00:15:53,890 --> 00:15:57,160  
Yes, but why did they

act so they were afraid--

360  
00:15:57,160 --> 00:16:00,280  
I mean, of the Jews,  
the Jewish leadership?

361  
00:16:00,280 --> 00:16:06,060  
They were afraid to appear  
as lobbying precisely?

362  
00:16:06,060 --> 00:16:06,997  
They were afraid to--

363  
00:16:06,997 --> 00:16:08,080  
They were afraid to lobby.

364  
00:16:08,080 --> 00:16:10,400  
They were afraid of the charge  
of this is a Jewish war.

365  
00:16:10,400 --> 00:16:12,850  
They were afraid to  
assert themselves.

366  
00:16:12,850 --> 00:16:15,190  
Because this was a  
different period.

367  
00:16:15,190 --> 00:16:17,270  
So this is a real difference  
between your action

368  
00:16:17,270 --> 00:16:19,160  
and their action or inaction.

369  
00:16:19,160 --> 00:16:21,950  
100%.

370  
00:16:21,950 --> 00:16:24,775  
And when you say that you  
were a radical group, what

371

00:16:24,775 --> 00:16:25,400  
does that mean?

372  
00:16:25,400 --> 00:16:26,200  
They said we were.

373  
00:16:26,200 --> 00:16:27,742  
I didn't say we were  
a radical group.

374  
00:16:27,742 --> 00:16:29,510  
I think we were a  
very modest group.

375  
00:16:29,510 --> 00:16:31,760  
If we were radicals, we  
would have thrown bombs.

376  
00:16:31,760 --> 00:16:34,460  
God knows, if there was  
ever a justification

377  
00:16:34,460 --> 00:16:35,960  
to throw bombs these  
were the years.

378  
00:16:35,960 --> 00:16:37,400  
We didn't even think about it.

379  
00:16:37,400 --> 00:16:38,600  
Because we were not radical.

380  
00:16:38,600 --> 00:16:40,700  
We were humanists.

381  
00:16:40,700 --> 00:16:44,870  
We were human beings reacting  
in a humanist way in the most

382  
00:16:44,870 --> 00:16:48,350  
elementary form, with  
a great deal of energy.

383

00:16:48,350 --> 00:16:50,520

But in no radical fashion.

384

00:16:50,520 --> 00:16:51,150

What did we do?

385

00:16:51,150 --> 00:16:52,850

We ran ads in the paper.

386

00:16:52,850 --> 00:16:56,300

We made a very peaceful  
March on Washington.

387

00:16:56,300 --> 00:16:58,250

One of the leading  
American newspaperman,

388

00:16:58,250 --> 00:17:00,060

William Allen White,  
who was an institution

389

00:17:00,060 --> 00:17:02,510

in this country  
from the Midwest,

390

00:17:02,510 --> 00:17:05,480

Topeka, Kansas, he met  
with me in Washington then.

391

00:17:05,480 --> 00:17:07,040

He introduced me to  
Wallace actually.

392

00:17:07,040 --> 00:17:10,190

And he said, I don't  
understand the Jews.

393

00:17:10,190 --> 00:17:14,599

He says, there shouldn't  
be one window unbroken

394

00:17:14,599 --> 00:17:16,369

in any British office  
in this country.

395  
00:17:16,369 --> 00:17:18,690  
He says, if they did this  
to us, Irish, he says,

396  
00:17:18,690 --> 00:17:22,339  
we would have broken  
all the British offices

397  
00:17:22,339 --> 00:17:24,500  
windows in the United States.

398  
00:17:24,500 --> 00:17:26,089  
Yeah, this is radicalism.

399  
00:17:26,089 --> 00:17:28,690  
And in those days  
this was radicalism.

400  
00:17:28,690 --> 00:17:31,970  
We were not radical.

401  
00:17:31,970 --> 00:17:34,640  
I think we were very minimalist.

402  
00:17:34,640 --> 00:17:37,610  
Yes, and who got first--

403  
00:17:37,610 --> 00:17:40,635  
who invented this--  
the idea of the ads?

404  
00:17:40,635 --> 00:17:43,310  
This we started actually with  
the Committee for Jewish Army,

405  
00:17:43,310 --> 00:17:45,790  
the first day-- it was  
before the extermination.

406

00:17:45,790 --> 00:17:51,560

We had the first one  
in late '41, early '42.

407

00:17:51,560 --> 00:17:52,100

Yes.

408

00:17:52,100 --> 00:17:55,310

Calling for-- it was said Jews  
fight for the right to fight,

409

00:17:55,310 --> 00:17:56,570

was the headline.

410

00:17:56,570 --> 00:18:00,920

Advocating a Jewish army of  
stateless and Palestinian Jews.

411

00:18:00,920 --> 00:18:01,557

OK, but when--

412

00:18:01,557 --> 00:18:02,390

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

413

00:18:02,390 --> 00:18:04,760

Then, actually, we  
started doing everything.

414

00:18:04,760 --> 00:18:06,530

We started doing  
everything we could.

415

00:18:06,530 --> 00:18:07,550

We made a pageant--

416

00:18:07,550 --> 00:18:09,650

This didn't happen  
before in American press?

417

00:18:09,650 --> 00:18:10,280

No.

418

00:18:10,280 --> 00:18:12,920  
No, they designed  
and started copying

419  
00:18:12,920 --> 00:18:15,230  
this 10, 15 years later.

420  
00:18:15,230 --> 00:18:18,170  
Now they do it all the time.

421  
00:18:18,170 --> 00:18:20,215  
We organize a pageant,  
I mentioned before,

422  
00:18:20,215 --> 00:18:22,490  
in Madison Square Garden  
where the Jews came twice

423  
00:18:22,490 --> 00:18:24,090  
in one evening, 45,000 people.

424  
00:18:24,090 --> 00:18:24,590  
Yes.

425  
00:18:24,590 --> 00:18:28,040  
Then we took it to Washington  
for a select audience,

426  
00:18:28,040 --> 00:18:30,620  
an invited audience, where  
there were four Supreme Court

427  
00:18:30,620 --> 00:18:33,920  
Justices, and Mrs. Roosevelt,  
and all the ambassadors

428  
00:18:33,920 --> 00:18:36,740  
under the Chairmanship of  
the Ambassadors of Occupied

429  
00:18:36,740 --> 00:18:40,550  
Europe, the whole  
diplomatic corps,

430  
00:18:40,550 --> 00:18:44,045  
except the British, two or  
three members of the cabinet.

431  
00:18:44,045 --> 00:18:46,820

432  
00:18:46,820 --> 00:18:50,635  
Now imagine that this was done  
by a small group of people,

433  
00:18:50,635 --> 00:18:51,710  
the driving force--

434  
00:18:51,710 --> 00:18:52,210  
Let's come--

435  
00:18:52,210 --> 00:18:54,130  
What could have been  
done if the Jews acted?

436  
00:18:54,130 --> 00:18:57,670  
So what was the impact  
of these advertisements?

437  
00:18:57,670 --> 00:18:58,695  
Well, I--

438  
00:18:58,695 --> 00:19:00,910  
Did you see them  
to be very strong?

439  
00:19:00,910 --> 00:19:04,015  
I think they had an impact.

440  
00:19:04,015 --> 00:19:05,140  
I think they had an impact.

441  
00:19:05,140 --> 00:19:05,860  
We spoke before.

442

00:19:05,860 --> 00:19:10,420

I mean, we lost and won.

443

00:19:10,420 --> 00:19:12,820

We lost because

we did not succeed

444

00:19:12,820 --> 00:19:15,910

in putting across

the fundamental theme

445

00:19:15,910 --> 00:19:21,850

of a governmental

duty, a war purpose

446

00:19:21,850 --> 00:19:23,380

to save the Jewish

people of Europe.

447

00:19:23,380 --> 00:19:28,630

We advocated a war-- a

rescue war to save the Jews.

448

00:19:28,630 --> 00:19:29,350

Yes.

449

00:19:29,350 --> 00:19:31,780

And they made a War

Refugee Board, which

450

00:19:31,780 --> 00:19:33,490

was a different proposition.

451

00:19:33,490 --> 00:19:35,950

But yet, A, this was

better than nothing.

452

00:19:35,950 --> 00:19:38,860

And B, we don't know-- the fact

is that when the war was over,

453

00:19:38,860 --> 00:19:41,080

several hundred  
thousand Jews survived.

454  
00:19:41,080 --> 00:19:45,780  
And I hope that our work  
had something to do with it.

455  
00:19:45,780 --> 00:19:49,530

456  
00:19:49,530 --> 00:19:54,165  
The important thing is to  
realize that from these facts

457  
00:19:54,165 --> 00:19:56,040  
one can surmise that if  
there would have been

458  
00:19:56,040 --> 00:19:58,930  
a real pressure, there  
could have been many,

459  
00:19:58,930 --> 00:19:59,805  
many more Jews saved.

460  
00:19:59,805 --> 00:20:02,263  
I don't think they could have  
saved all the Jews because it

461  
00:20:02,263 --> 00:20:03,090  
was too late.

462  
00:20:03,090 --> 00:20:06,045  
But most could have been saved.

463  
00:20:06,045 --> 00:20:09,150  
Yes, as a matter of fact,  
the whole year of '43

464  
00:20:09,150 --> 00:20:11,790  
was completely lost.

465

00:20:11,790 --> 00:20:15,220  
Because we were busy fighting  
all sorts of sabotage

466  
00:20:15,220 --> 00:20:16,650  
in the Congress.

467  
00:20:16,650 --> 00:20:21,030  
It depends when you  
count the word--

468  
00:20:21,030 --> 00:20:28,420  
the struggle between us  
and the Zionists began.

469  
00:20:28,420 --> 00:20:37,190  
Because as I said, we  
were animated and driven.

470  
00:20:37,190 --> 00:20:37,850  
We were?

471  
00:20:37,850 --> 00:20:39,890  
We were animated and driven--

472  
00:20:39,890 --> 00:20:41,030  
Yes.

473  
00:20:41,030 --> 00:20:47,810  
--by a feeling that  
time is running out.

474  
00:20:47,810 --> 00:20:50,645  
But this was before the war.

475  
00:20:50,645 --> 00:20:52,350  
This is very clear  
in all the ads.

476  
00:20:52,350 --> 00:20:54,230  
No, no, this was before the war.

477

00:20:54,230 --> 00:20:58,880  
This was in 1936, 1937.

478  
00:20:58,880 --> 00:21:00,560  
You had already this position.

479  
00:21:00,560 --> 00:21:01,190  
Pardon me?

480  
00:21:01,190 --> 00:21:03,440  
You were already  
driven at this time?

481  
00:21:03,440 --> 00:21:10,170  
By that time, we, under  
the impact of Jabotinsky,

482  
00:21:10,170 --> 00:21:17,640  
who said that "If you Jews will  
not liquidate the diaspora,

483  
00:21:17,640 --> 00:21:20,940  
the diaspora will  
liquidate you."

484  
00:21:20,940 --> 00:21:26,310  
He didn't refer to the  
Holocaust because he

485  
00:21:26,310 --> 00:21:28,800  
didn't foresee the Holocaust.

486  
00:21:28,800 --> 00:21:32,220  
But he knew that the  
objective conditions

487  
00:21:32,220 --> 00:21:36,520  
of the Jews in Eastern Europe,  
of the masses, of the millions,

488  
00:21:36,520 --> 00:21:45,000  
are such that only by evacuation  
they can save themselves.

489  
00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:50,640  
The Zionists not the only  
were against the concept

490  
00:21:50,640 --> 00:21:55,950  
of evacuation, but  
they thought that

491  
00:21:55,950 --> 00:22:01,020  
by proclaiming that Jews  
have to save themselves,

492  
00:22:01,020 --> 00:22:06,030  
have to rescue themselves  
by evacuation means

493  
00:22:06,030 --> 00:22:09,690  
to give up in  
advance their rights

494  
00:22:09,690 --> 00:22:12,900  
in the various countries,  
especially in Poland.

495  
00:22:12,900 --> 00:22:17,520  
And therefore, Jabotinsky  
was considered a traitor

496  
00:22:17,520 --> 00:22:20,340  
and there was a  
lynch atmosphere.

497  
00:22:20,340 --> 00:22:23,520  
The Irgun was a step forward.

498  
00:22:23,520 --> 00:22:24,420  
And the sense--

499  
00:22:24,420 --> 00:22:27,750

500

00:22:27,750 --> 00:22:30,710  
(film slating)

501  
00:22:30,710 --> 00:22:31,630  
[INAUDIBLE]

502  
00:22:31,630 --> 00:22:38,630

503  
00:22:38,630 --> 00:22:39,330  
Merlin.

504  
00:22:39,330 --> 00:22:40,140  
Yeah.

505  
00:22:40,140 --> 00:22:40,640  
The--

506  
00:22:40,640 --> 00:22:45,500

507  
00:22:45,500 --> 00:22:48,690  
We are talking about the feeling  
of insurgency, of urgency.

508  
00:22:48,690 --> 00:22:53,110

509  
00:22:53,110 --> 00:22:59,070  
There was a basic and  
fundamental difference

510  
00:22:59,070 --> 00:23:07,260  
between Jabotinsky and  
later between the Irgun

511  
00:23:07,260 --> 00:23:13,860  
and the established  
Zionist organization.

512  
00:23:13,860 --> 00:23:25,790  
The Zionist leadership,

through their ideology,

513

00:23:25,790 --> 00:23:32,990

and propaganda,  
and their electeds

514

00:23:32,990 --> 00:23:38,210

gave the impression  
that Zionism aims

515

00:23:38,210 --> 00:23:43,460

to liberate the Jewish  
masses and to rescue them

516

00:23:43,460 --> 00:23:47,720

in time from a cataclysm.

517

00:23:47,720 --> 00:23:53,510

But in reality, this  
was not the case at all.

518

00:23:53,510 --> 00:24:02,560

Zionism aimed to transform,  
through education,

519

00:24:02,560 --> 00:24:09,700

and through vocational  
schooling a small minority

520

00:24:09,700 --> 00:24:18,910

of young people who should be  
prepared to go to Palestine

521

00:24:18,910 --> 00:24:31,090

and to live a life which  
is not plagued and degraded

522

00:24:31,090 --> 00:24:33,490

by the life of the  
Jews in Europe.

523

00:24:33,490 --> 00:24:41,590

They wanted a new generation,

productive, proud, physically

524

00:24:41,590 --> 00:24:49,010

strong, and socially just.

525

00:24:49,010 --> 00:24:53,960

They were not  
interested in the danger

526

00:24:53,960 --> 00:24:58,040

or they weren't  
aware of the danger

527

00:24:58,040 --> 00:25:01,760

to the masses of  
the Jewish people.

528

00:25:01,760 --> 00:25:07,460

And this, to my opinion,  
was the root cause

529

00:25:07,460 --> 00:25:15,980

why the Zionists were unable  
psychologically and emotionally

530

00:25:15,980 --> 00:25:21,880

to identify themselves  
with the Jews trapped

531

00:25:21,880 --> 00:25:23,360

in Hitler's Europe.

532

00:25:23,360 --> 00:25:24,680

With the faith of these--

533

00:25:24,680 --> 00:25:28,880

With the faith of the Jews who  
were trapped in Eastern Europe.

534

00:25:28,880 --> 00:25:32,960

As a result of this  
basic difference,

535

00:25:32,960 --> 00:25:44,810

we started rescue, not in  
1941, not in '42, not in '43,

536

00:25:44,810 --> 00:25:53,350

but we started rescue in 1935  
through illegal immigration.

537

00:25:53,350 --> 00:25:57,320

We decided that by the--

538

00:25:57,320 --> 00:26:02,030

in the framework  
and in the confines

539

00:26:02,030 --> 00:26:08,180

of the legal certificates  
that the British allocated

540

00:26:08,180 --> 00:26:11,570

to the Jewish  
agency to distribute

541

00:26:11,570 --> 00:26:18,230

among a few thousand  
Jews a year,

542

00:26:18,230 --> 00:26:24,050

this will not rescue the Jewish  
masses from the impending doom.

543

00:26:24,050 --> 00:26:27,720

544

00:26:27,720 --> 00:26:32,490

They were-- the Zionists were  
against the illegal immigration

545

00:26:32,490 --> 00:26:34,620

for all kinds of reasons.

546

00:26:34,620 --> 00:26:38,440

Mainly for two reasons.

547

00:26:38,440 --> 00:26:43,410

First of all because  
illegal immigration was not

548

00:26:43,410 --> 00:26:53,410

selective qualitatively  
and morally as they wanted.

549

00:26:53,410 --> 00:26:56,020

The Jewish agency  
became a monopoly

550

00:26:56,020 --> 00:26:59,200

of limited Jewish immigration.

551

00:26:59,200 --> 00:27:05,350

Here was the danger that  
this monopoly will be broken.

552

00:27:05,350 --> 00:27:07,010

So these are the two reasons.

553

00:27:07,010 --> 00:27:11,110

First of all, they were  
against the illegal immigration

554

00:27:11,110 --> 00:27:13,210

because it wasn't selective.

555

00:27:13,210 --> 00:27:18,340

Second, that it was  
outside their monopoly

556

00:27:18,340 --> 00:27:21,790

that they received from  
the British government.

557

00:27:21,790 --> 00:27:27,550

We came to this  
country as early--

558

00:27:27,550 --> 00:27:31,720

when I say we I mean  
delegates of the Irgun,

559

00:27:31,720 --> 00:27:37,870

of the Irgun Zvai Leumi in  
Palestine, as early as '39.

560

00:27:37,870 --> 00:27:45,940

And we came with this  
specific, very clear aim

561

00:27:45,940 --> 00:27:55,303

of mobilizing funds  
in order to finance

562

00:27:55,303 --> 00:28:00,850

at an ever- larger scope,  
the illegal immigration

563

00:28:00,850 --> 00:28:02,170

from Eastern Europe.

564

00:28:02,170 --> 00:28:03,340

A mass immigration.

565

00:28:03,340 --> 00:28:05,410

A mass immigration.

566

00:28:05,410 --> 00:28:10,480

We felt the stampede coming.

567

00:28:10,480 --> 00:28:15,162

And the stampede  
came in 1940, 1941.

568

00:28:15,162 --> 00:28:18,670

OK, and afterwards  
you wanted to conform

569

00:28:18,670 --> 00:28:21,065

to change the mass

immigration in a mass rescue.

570

00:28:21,065 --> 00:28:24,970

In a mass-- now

when we came here we

571

00:28:24,970 --> 00:28:37,400

found a world that was to us,

Hebrews, Palestinian Jews,

572

00:28:37,400 --> 00:28:45,140

members of the Irgun,

some of us disciples

573

00:28:45,140 --> 00:28:47,360

or former disciples

of Jabotinsky,

574

00:28:47,360 --> 00:28:50,090

things which were foreign.

575

00:28:50,090 --> 00:28:54,290

As exactly as we were

foreign to the Jews here,

576

00:28:54,290 --> 00:28:58,140

we found things foreign to us.

577

00:28:58,140 --> 00:29:03,380

First of all, we noticed that

the Jews don't take themselves

578

00:29:03,380 --> 00:29:04,040

seriously.

579

00:29:04,040 --> 00:29:06,730

580

00:29:06,730 --> 00:29:12,640

We found such strange

phenomena, that regardless

581

00:29:12,640 --> 00:29:16,000  
how important the Jewish  
story, from abroad,

582  
00:29:16,000 --> 00:29:20,740  
from Europe, or from Palestine  
is, The New York Times gave it

583  
00:29:20,740 --> 00:29:25,090  
either on the obituary  
page, because somehow,

584  
00:29:25,090 --> 00:29:28,930  
by association of ideas,  
Jews have to do with death,

585  
00:29:28,930 --> 00:29:32,260  
or it was given in  
the religious rubric,

586  
00:29:32,260 --> 00:29:36,550  
in the sense that Jews have  
to do with the synagogue.

587  
00:29:36,550 --> 00:29:37,780  
What do you mean?

588  
00:29:37,780 --> 00:29:39,160  
I don't understand.

589  
00:29:39,160 --> 00:29:43,150  
Jewish news stories were  
printed in The New York

590  
00:29:43,150 --> 00:29:46,690  
Times and other newspapers, but  
mainly in The New York Times,

591  
00:29:46,690 --> 00:29:49,630  
either on the obituary page--

592  
00:29:49,630 --> 00:29:51,790  
You mean news of

the extermination?

593

00:29:51,790 --> 00:29:54,510

No, not about the extermination.

594

00:29:54,510 --> 00:29:57,850

Regardless of what kind of an  
important news item it was--

595

00:29:57,850 --> 00:30:00,340

in 1938, 1939.

596

00:30:00,340 --> 00:30:04,000

For instance, that the  
Jews should participate

597

00:30:04,000 --> 00:30:07,390

in the war against Hitler.

598

00:30:07,390 --> 00:30:18,130

Or whatever new measures  
Hitler took against the Jews,

599

00:30:18,130 --> 00:30:21,520

it was relegated  
always to an item

600

00:30:21,520 --> 00:30:27,160

either on the obituary  
page that deals with dying

601

00:30:27,160 --> 00:30:33,310

or on the religious page  
that deals with religion.

602

00:30:33,310 --> 00:30:36,580

And we asked ourselves why?

603

00:30:36,580 --> 00:30:41,110

Why shouldn't such an  
important central problem

604

00:30:41,110 --> 00:30:46,840  
that was declared by Hitler as  
one of his main war aims not

605  
00:30:46,840 --> 00:30:48,430  
be front page?

606  
00:30:48,430 --> 00:30:51,910  
And we decided that  
we will remove it

607  
00:30:51,910 --> 00:30:55,840  
from the obituary page,  
from the synagogue page,

608  
00:30:55,840 --> 00:30:57,850  
and onto the front page.

609  
00:30:57,850 --> 00:30:59,770  
And we did it.

610  
00:30:59,770 --> 00:31:06,910  
Because we felt that  
Jews, and their condition,

611  
00:31:06,910 --> 00:31:13,180  
and their sufferings, and their  
hopes, and their aspirations

612  
00:31:13,180 --> 00:31:18,020  
are an important and  
central issue in the world.

613  
00:31:18,020 --> 00:31:27,430  
Second, all the activities were  
downtown, south of 14th Street.

614  
00:31:27,430 --> 00:31:31,990  
14th Street was the limit  
of all the activities.

615  
00:31:31,990 --> 00:31:33,040  
Of what, of the Jews?

616  
00:31:33,040 --> 00:31:34,600  
Of the Jews.

617  
00:31:34,600 --> 00:31:36,640  
The Lower East Side--

618  
00:31:36,640 --> 00:31:39,160  
all the three Jewish  
Yiddish newspapers

619  
00:31:39,160 --> 00:31:40,780  
were concentrated there.

620  
00:31:40,780 --> 00:31:45,020  
All the famous Yiddish-- the  
Jewish restaurants were there.

621  
00:31:45,020 --> 00:31:52,180  
A cafe where the Jewish  
intelligentsia, and Bohemia,

622  
00:31:52,180 --> 00:31:56,810  
and the writers, the  
painters congregated,

623  
00:31:56,810 --> 00:32:02,690  
the Cafe Royale was  
on Second Avenue.

624  
00:32:02,690 --> 00:32:05,060  
The furthest thing  
that Jews ever

625  
00:32:05,060 --> 00:32:10,430  
dared to come out from the Lower  
East Side was Manhattan Center.

626  
00:32:10,430 --> 00:32:12,680  
This is 34th Street.

627  
00:32:12,680 --> 00:32:13,370

34th.

628

00:32:13,370 --> 00:32:16,685

34th Street, but this  
was an exception.

629

00:32:16,685 --> 00:32:17,870

So they never went--

630

00:32:17,870 --> 00:32:19,910

They never went far.

631

00:32:19,910 --> 00:32:23,660

And we decided that  
it doesn't make sense.

632

00:32:23,660 --> 00:32:25,530

So there were no Jews  
on Madison Avenue?

633

00:32:25,530 --> 00:32:26,330

No, their were.

634

00:32:26,330 --> 00:32:29,200

He means the organized Jews.

635

00:32:29,200 --> 00:32:31,040

But the organizational  
activities,

636

00:32:31,040 --> 00:32:34,640

the Jewish activities  
were in the ghetto.

637

00:32:34,640 --> 00:32:39,200

Individually, they  
lived on Park Avenue.

638

00:32:39,200 --> 00:32:43,070

They lived on Central Park  
West, on Central Park South,

639

00:32:43,070 --> 00:32:45,170  
on whatever it was.

640  
00:32:45,170 --> 00:32:49,760  
But when it came to  
activities, when it came

641  
00:32:49,760 --> 00:32:53,960  
to political action, it was--

642  
00:32:53,960 --> 00:32:57,140  
we decided that it  
has to be brought

643  
00:32:57,140 --> 00:33:03,440  
in the center of the city and  
in the center of the country

644  
00:33:03,440 --> 00:33:06,710  
because it's an important thing.

645  
00:33:06,710 --> 00:33:11,600  
We tried to understand why  
was it that the Jews are

646  
00:33:11,600 --> 00:33:13,460  
so reticent about.

647  
00:33:13,460 --> 00:33:16,070

648  
00:33:16,070 --> 00:33:23,120  
And we found out that they  
are, as Peter explained,

649  
00:33:23,120 --> 00:33:26,780  
that they're afraid to  
bring out the Jewish problem

650  
00:33:26,780 --> 00:33:32,490  
into the open, that  
terrible things may happen.

651

00:33:32,490 --> 00:33:37,820

And we decided to  
undertake a revolutionary--

652

00:33:37,820 --> 00:33:39,520

(film logistics)

653

00:33:39,520 --> 00:33:48,000