

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,157

2  
00:00:03,157 --> 00:00:06,195  
(film slating)

3  
00:00:06,195 --> 00:00:08,640

4  
00:00:08,640 --> 00:00:11,760  
One can say about the  
Zionists all kinds

5  
00:00:11,760 --> 00:00:20,385  
of things in the sense of  
what opposed them to us

6  
00:00:20,385 --> 00:00:28,740  
or why we oppose  
them but two things

7  
00:00:28,740 --> 00:00:37,470  
they considered crucial  
and objectively speaking,

8  
00:00:37,470 --> 00:00:41,790  
this is what  
determined eventually

9  
00:00:41,790 --> 00:00:45,340  
the fate of the Jews of Europe.

10  
00:00:45,340 --> 00:00:54,570  
One was that they were  
not emotionally identified

11  
00:00:54,570 --> 00:01:01,320  
with the masses of  
the Jews in Poland,

12  
00:01:01,320 --> 00:01:07,500

in all of this and other  
concentration of Jews which

13  
00:01:07,500 --> 00:01:14,370  
they always used with pejorative  
names and connotations.

14  
00:01:14,370 --> 00:01:17,190

15  
00:01:17,190 --> 00:01:20,560  
They themselves were  
not admiring the Jews.

16  
00:01:20,560 --> 00:01:23,780

17  
00:01:23,780 --> 00:01:30,210  
They were not shocked to the  
innermost and terrible things

18  
00:01:30,210 --> 00:01:34,770  
happen to them and  
if you permit me,

19  
00:01:34,770 --> 00:01:40,710  
it is very tempting to give  
you a couple of examples

20  
00:01:40,710 --> 00:01:43,920  
of this state of mind  
and of the philosophy

21  
00:01:43,920 --> 00:01:48,750  
and of the ideology  
of the Zionist leaders

22  
00:01:48,750 --> 00:01:53,160  
there was Weizmannn who was  
the greatest Zionist leader.

23  
00:01:53,160 --> 00:01:55,560  
Anyhow, considered

by the Zionists,

24

00:01:55,560 --> 00:01:57,660

he was the most celebrated  
Jew in the world.

25

00:01:57,660 --> 00:02:00,470

26

00:02:00,470 --> 00:02:06,590

On the last Zionist Congress  
before the war on August 4,

27

00:02:06,590 --> 00:02:12,800

1937, he repeated  
himself, he quoted himself

28

00:02:12,800 --> 00:02:17,780

what he said to the British  
Peel Commission that

29

00:02:17,780 --> 00:02:24,160

investigated trouble in  
Palestine in 1936 a year ago.

30

00:02:24,160 --> 00:02:31,950

And he said that millions of  
Jews cannot be saved because he

31

00:02:31,950 --> 00:02:36,360

is and I quote "acquainted  
with the laws of physics

32

00:02:36,360 --> 00:02:37,320

and chemistry".

33

00:02:37,320 --> 00:02:38,700

I don't understand.

34

00:02:38,700 --> 00:02:39,545

Why chemistry?

35

00:02:39,545 --> 00:02:40,680  
[? Go on. ?]

36  
00:02:40,680 --> 00:02:44,670  
"And I know the force  
of material factors.

37  
00:02:44,670 --> 00:02:49,770  
In our generation, only a  
minority, the young ones,

38  
00:02:49,770 --> 00:02:52,170  
should be thought of to be safe.

39  
00:02:52,170 --> 00:02:54,600  
The old ones will pass.

40  
00:02:54,600 --> 00:02:58,630  
They will bear their  
fate or they will not.

41  
00:02:58,630 --> 00:03:05,620  
They are dust, economic and  
moral dust in a cruel world."

42  
00:03:05,620 --> 00:03:10,310  
And he claimed to speak  
not only for himself

43  
00:03:10,310 --> 00:03:16,190  
but to speak in the spirit of  
the prophets of old and he said

44  
00:03:16,190 --> 00:03:19,480  
and I quote, "Thousands  
of years ago, we

45  
00:03:19,480 --> 00:03:22,990  
heard the words of  
Isaiah and Jeremiah

46  
00:03:22,990 --> 00:03:26,020  
and my words are but

a weak echo of what

47

00:03:26,020 --> 00:03:30,410

was said by our judges, our  
singers, and our prophets.

48

00:03:30,410 --> 00:03:36,130

[NON-ENGLISH],, only a remnant  
shall survive and we have

49

00:03:36,130 --> 00:03:37,796

to accept it."

50

00:03:37,796 --> 00:03:41,230

And then it's very interesting,  
extremely interesting

51

00:03:41,230 --> 00:03:42,370

and indicative.

52

00:03:42,370 --> 00:03:44,800

At the close of Dr.  
Weizmann's speech,

53

00:03:44,800 --> 00:03:48,970

the Congress rose and sang  
the Jewish National anthem,

54

00:03:48,970 --> 00:03:52,720

the Hatikvah, the song of hope.

55

00:03:52,720 --> 00:03:53,360

OK.

56

00:03:53,360 --> 00:03:58,870

You mean that the Zionists were  
not shaken by the Holocaust,

57

00:03:58,870 --> 00:04:01,030

by the catastrophe,  
the destruction

58

00:04:01,030 --> 00:04:04,030  
of the European Jewry because  
deeply in their heart,,

59  
00:04:04,030 --> 00:04:07,540  
they were against  
this type of Jews.

60  
00:04:07,540 --> 00:04:13,960  
They despised the Jewish  
masses and their aim

61  
00:04:13,960 --> 00:04:16,480  
was not to rescue their lives.

62  
00:04:16,480 --> 00:04:23,910  
Their aim was to create  
a transformation of Jews

63  
00:04:23,910 --> 00:04:29,860  
in a new social and  
ethical framework.

64  
00:04:29,860 --> 00:04:30,920  
And second--

65  
00:04:30,920 --> 00:04:35,680  
I think that there is a danger  
here of misunderstanding which

66  
00:04:35,680 --> 00:04:40,750  
I at least cannot be passive  
to and I know that Merlin

67  
00:04:40,750 --> 00:04:44,290  
didn't mean it because  
the way it comes out,

68  
00:04:44,290 --> 00:04:50,110  
it would seem that some might  
understand that the Zionist

69  
00:04:50,110 --> 00:04:57,760

leadership accepted the massacre  
of the Jews and didn't move

70  
00:04:57,760 --> 00:04:59,680  
to save them simply.

71  
00:04:59,680 --> 00:05:03,400  
I mean because fundamentally,  
they didn't care.

72  
00:05:03,400 --> 00:05:07,595  
I mean, I do not share this  
view and I must reject it.

73  
00:05:07,595 --> 00:05:09,220  
I don't think human  
emotions, and there

74  
00:05:09,220 --> 00:05:10,930  
are very deep human  
emotions involved,

75  
00:05:10,930 --> 00:05:12,550  
they are that simplistic.

76  
00:05:12,550 --> 00:05:17,980  
Human emotions are complex  
and we can judge only

77  
00:05:17,980 --> 00:05:23,720  
by documents and not by--

78  
00:05:23,720 --> 00:05:24,220  
OK.

79  
00:05:24,220 --> 00:05:27,350  
If you have some documents,  
please read them.

80  
00:05:27,350 --> 00:05:33,640  
Here are protocols,  
protocols written

81

00:05:33,640 --> 00:05:41,950

at the time of the  
Rescue Committee--

82

00:05:41,950 --> 00:05:49,890

it has all kinds of names  
but it settled in 1943

83

00:05:49,890 --> 00:05:57,970

under the name of the Rescue  
Committee of the Jewish Agency

84

00:05:57,970 --> 00:06:04,070

and there is a doctorate, a PhD  
that was printed in Palestine.

85

00:06:04,070 --> 00:06:05,350

OK.

86

00:06:05,350 --> 00:06:07,090

Give the quotation, please.

87

00:06:07,090 --> 00:06:15,730

And he said, and  
the chairman said--

88

00:06:15,730 --> 00:06:17,920

Who is the chairman?

89

00:06:17,920 --> 00:06:19,270

Yitzhak Gruenbaum.

90

00:06:19,270 --> 00:06:19,900

OK.

91

00:06:19,900 --> 00:06:27,710

He said that time and again  
that there is no use to protest.

92

00:06:27,710 --> 00:06:34,480

There is no use to engage  
in any noisy activities.

93

00:06:34,480 --> 00:06:41,230

There is no use to pressure  
the governments because nothing

94

00:06:41,230 --> 00:06:45,370

can be done and the vast  
majority of the Jews

95

00:06:45,370 --> 00:06:54,850

have to be considered  
doomed, that the British

96

00:06:54,850 --> 00:06:59,740

and the Americans are right  
that only a military victory may

97

00:06:59,740 --> 00:07:01,420

save them.

98

00:07:01,420 --> 00:07:09,630

Nahum Goldmann said after  
he came from a meeting

99

00:07:09,630 --> 00:07:13,180

with the state department,  
he wrote to that committee.

100

00:07:13,180 --> 00:07:15,510

He says, "I'm  
afraid that we have

101

00:07:15,510 --> 00:07:20,640

to take it for granted that  
the extermination of the Jews

102

00:07:20,640 --> 00:07:31,710

of Europe will be completed  
and only remnants will remain

103

00:07:31,710 --> 00:07:38,040

in Britain and in Russia."

104

00:07:38,040 --> 00:07:40,710

More than that,  
when somebody asked

105

00:07:40,710 --> 00:07:44,400

if this is the case that nothing  
has to be done because nothing

106

00:07:44,400 --> 00:07:48,000

can be done, why do you  
need a Rescue Committee?

107

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:50,670

And they explained, we  
need the Rescue Committee

108

00:07:50,670 --> 00:07:56,010

in order to prove to  
the Jews and to issue

109

00:07:56,010 --> 00:07:58,740

and the Jews in America  
that we are doing something.

110

00:07:58,740 --> 00:08:06,000

This is exactly on  
the line, but Eden

111

00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:10,620

and what Roosevelt have done  
as far as Evian and as far

112

00:08:10,620 --> 00:08:13,290

as Bermuda is concerned,  
let's do something

113

00:08:13,290 --> 00:08:15,725

in order to show that  
we are doing something

114

00:08:15,725 --> 00:08:19,590

but actually, we don't believe  
that something can be done

115  
00:08:19,590 --> 00:08:21,450  
or we don't want  
to do something.

116  
00:08:21,450 --> 00:08:25,480  
I don't say the Zionists  
didn't want to do anything.

117  
00:08:25,480 --> 00:08:33,840  
I only say that their drive,  
their emotional identification

118  
00:08:33,840 --> 00:08:39,179  
was very weak because they  
were not prepared for it.

119  
00:08:39,179 --> 00:08:45,450  
I still feel that this does an  
injustice to people who maybe

120  
00:08:45,450 --> 00:08:49,350  
don't deserve justice but  
deserve a lot more pity

121  
00:08:49,350 --> 00:08:55,140  
and I think that they didn't  
act because they were petrified.

122  
00:08:55,140 --> 00:08:59,700  
I think they didn't act because  
they are apolitical people.

123  
00:08:59,700 --> 00:09:02,790  
They are petrified Jews  
who accept Jewish destiny

124  
00:09:02,790 --> 00:09:04,620  
as being passive.

125  
00:09:04,620 --> 00:09:08,830  
The Jewish existence for  
2,000 years was to be passive.

126  
00:09:08,830 --> 00:09:13,230  
And when you needed  
political action

127  
00:09:13,230 --> 00:09:16,960  
and they were  
incapable of grasping.

128  
00:09:16,960 --> 00:09:18,750  
Oh, I don't think you are right.

129  
00:09:18,750 --> 00:09:22,390  
It is not the case of these  
people of the Rescue Committee

130  
00:09:22,390 --> 00:09:24,480  
or the Jewish Agency that  
[? occurs ?] in the case

131  
00:09:24,480 --> 00:09:26,580  
of these people like Gruenbaum.

132  
00:09:26,580 --> 00:09:29,130  
What, you think their political  
understanding is zero?

133  
00:09:29,130 --> 00:09:33,210  
No, maybe they had no real  
political understanding.

134  
00:09:33,210 --> 00:09:36,520  
As a matter of fact, they wanted  
to create the state of Israel

135  
00:09:36,520 --> 00:09:37,950  
as an end.

136  
00:09:37,950 --> 00:09:39,768  
This was their main aim.

137  
00:09:39,768 --> 00:09:40,435

Once they were--

138  
00:09:40,435 --> 00:09:42,390  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

139  
00:09:42,390 --> 00:09:44,280  
He's condemning them  
so much and you're

140  
00:09:44,280 --> 00:09:46,050  
giving them too much credit.

141  
00:09:46,050 --> 00:09:48,050  
It's the same.

142  
00:09:48,050 --> 00:09:48,810  
No.

143  
00:09:48,810 --> 00:09:53,880  
How do you explain, we  
were in 1940, mind you,

144  
00:09:53,880 --> 00:09:58,260  
in 1940, late 1940.

145  
00:09:58,260 --> 00:10:03,570  
We were engaged in  
rescuing 2,400 people who

146  
00:10:03,570 --> 00:10:10,690  
were trapped at the Danube.

147  
00:10:10,690 --> 00:10:17,280  
It was December and they  
were trapped in barges

148  
00:10:17,280 --> 00:10:20,940  
and we needed in  
order to rescue them

149  
00:10:20,940 --> 00:10:23,610  
to a ship called [? Zachariah ?]

and at long last,

150

00:10:23,610 --> 00:10:25,940

we did and then

the [? Zachariah ?]

151

00:10:25,940 --> 00:10:32,100

arrived in Palestine and apart

from four people who died,

152

00:10:32,100 --> 00:10:33,355

everybody survived.

153

00:10:33,355 --> 00:10:36,870

154

00:10:36,870 --> 00:10:42,280

It was a proposition

that needed \$200,000.

155

00:10:42,280 --> 00:10:48,310

The people of Europe, I mean,

our own emissaries the Hebrew

156

00:10:48,310 --> 00:10:52,000

emissaries and the Irgun and

the passengers themselves,

157

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:57,340

the refugees themselves

assembled all the money except

158

00:10:57,340 --> 00:11:05,530

the last \$12,500 and Ze-ev

Jabotinsky who was the head

159

00:11:05,530 --> 00:11:12,250

of this operation

cabled here to get--

160

00:11:12,250 --> 00:11:14,540

Cut, cut.

161  
00:11:14,540 --> 00:11:17,984  
(film slating)

162  
00:11:17,984 --> 00:11:20,980

163  
00:11:20,980 --> 00:11:23,704  
All right, Peter.

164  
00:11:23,704 --> 00:11:25,205  
What did you do actually?

165  
00:11:25,205 --> 00:11:28,260

166  
00:11:28,260 --> 00:11:30,760  
Well, one has to--

167  
00:11:30,760 --> 00:11:35,250  
let me try and explain what  
was the task as we saw it.

168  
00:11:35,250 --> 00:11:39,870  
The task was to save as  
many Jews as possible.

169  
00:11:39,870 --> 00:11:41,130  
The Germans were killing them.

170  
00:11:41,130 --> 00:11:42,660  
It was warring.

171  
00:11:42,660 --> 00:11:50,370  
We didn't control armies,  
neither we nor the Jews and we

172  
00:11:50,370 --> 00:11:54,285  
felt that the most  
important thing

173  
00:11:54,285 --> 00:11:56,910

is to get action on the part of  
the American government, that's

174  
00:11:56,910 --> 00:11:59,700  
to say, the president.

175  
00:11:59,700 --> 00:12:03,480  
And the only way  
we could do it is

176  
00:12:03,480 --> 00:12:06,570  
to mobilize the American  
people so everything we did

177  
00:12:06,570 --> 00:12:11,190  
had one paramount  
objective and this

178  
00:12:11,190 --> 00:12:14,580  
is to get as many  
influential Americans,

179  
00:12:14,580 --> 00:12:18,210  
as many masses of Americans  
to create an atmosphere where

180  
00:12:18,210 --> 00:12:22,860  
pressure will build up so that  
the administration would feel

181  
00:12:22,860 --> 00:12:24,900  
that this is much  
more important to them

182  
00:12:24,900 --> 00:12:27,862  
than the British pressure  
not to do anything,

183  
00:12:27,862 --> 00:12:29,820  
because the British  
pressure not to do anything

184  
00:12:29,820 --> 00:12:31,770

was because of Palestine.

185

00:12:31,770 --> 00:12:34,770

The Zionists, again going  
a little bit back to what

186

00:12:34,770 --> 00:12:38,370

happened before this  
horrible thing became known,

187

00:12:38,370 --> 00:12:42,600

but the Zionists were  
engaged in a campaign

188

00:12:42,600 --> 00:12:45,510

to open the gates of Palestine  
because against the White Paper

189

00:12:45,510 --> 00:12:50,070

policy and we felt that the  
most important thing was

190

00:12:50,070 --> 00:12:50,880

to disengage.

191

00:12:50,880 --> 00:12:52,922

Not to say this has nothing  
to do with Palestine,

192

00:12:52,922 --> 00:13:00,970

just ignore Palestine and create  
a tide wave of human reaction

193

00:13:00,970 --> 00:13:03,040

that would pressure  
Washington into action

194

00:13:03,040 --> 00:13:05,500

and then whatever  
we did was aimed

195

00:13:05,500 --> 00:13:06,970

at mobilizing public opinion.

196  
00:13:06,970 --> 00:13:08,470  
You see here some  
of the ads that we

197  
00:13:08,470 --> 00:13:16,090  
have done which was a propaganda  
technique of an enormous scale.

198  
00:13:16,090 --> 00:13:19,570  
There were about over  
90 individual ads

199  
00:13:19,570 --> 00:13:22,150  
from those placed in various  
papers in the country.

200  
00:13:22,150 --> 00:13:24,200  
In all the biggest newspapers?

201  
00:13:24,200 --> 00:13:26,200  
In about 10 of the  
largest papers.

202  
00:13:26,200 --> 00:13:28,990  
Some people-- in town,  
sometimes a bunch of people

203  
00:13:28,990 --> 00:13:30,550  
will organize and  
then printed them

204  
00:13:30,550 --> 00:13:35,800  
in the little small town  
signed here with a quote,

205  
00:13:35,800 --> 00:13:40,690  
"By about 40 senators, governors  
and congressmen on the side

206  
00:13:40,690 --> 00:13:41,800  
on the overall objective".

207

00:13:41,800 --> 00:13:43,342

Not the ads because  
it was impossible

208

00:13:43,342 --> 00:13:46,448

each ad to submit because  
they were coming out fast.

209

00:13:46,448 --> 00:13:47,740

Here are some of the headlines.

210

00:13:47,740 --> 00:13:49,220

I don't know if  
they come through.

211

00:13:49,220 --> 00:13:49,720

Yes.

212

00:13:49,720 --> 00:13:50,800

This is after Bermuda.

213

00:13:50,800 --> 00:13:53,260

"The five million Jews  
in Nazi trap Bermuda

214

00:13:53,260 --> 00:13:56,125

was a cruel mockery," which  
was a quote from the Manchester

215

00:13:56,125 --> 00:13:59,860

Guardian by the way  
and, "Action, not pity",

216

00:13:59,860 --> 00:14:04,000

which was the overall slogan.

217

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:07,540

Here is an ad which  
suggests a concrete proposal

218

00:14:07,540 --> 00:14:13,840

to establish a 25-square

mile camp in Turkey so

219

00:14:13,840 --> 00:14:16,210  
that the Jews shouldn't be  
locked in or locked out.

220

00:14:16,210 --> 00:14:18,430  
They have a place to  
go with their allies

221

00:14:18,430 --> 00:14:19,900  
guaranteeing the Turks--

222

00:14:19,900 --> 00:14:21,837  
For the Jews of the Balkan area.

223

00:14:21,837 --> 00:14:23,670  
The Jews of the Balkan  
areas and of Hungary.

224

00:14:23,670 --> 00:14:26,468  
Many could have come there  
except because the Jews were

225

00:14:26,468 --> 00:14:27,760  
trapped, they couldn't get out.

226

00:14:27,760 --> 00:14:28,990  
Nobody would let them in.

227

00:14:28,990 --> 00:14:31,942  
If they became known in Europe  
that there is a place where

228

00:14:31,942 --> 00:14:33,400  
Jews can get, there  
would have been

229

00:14:33,400 --> 00:14:36,550  
a whole underground movement  
of people getting there.

230

00:14:36,550 --> 00:14:39,610  
And the Allies according  
to what says here

231  
00:14:39,610 --> 00:14:43,090  
would guarantee the Turks to  
take them out after the war.

232  
00:14:43,090 --> 00:14:45,190  
Not saying where to,  
just take them out.

233  
00:14:45,190 --> 00:14:47,530  
What is that one, "For  
sale to humanity"?

234  
00:14:47,530 --> 00:14:50,200  
This one was a specific  
ad on this story which

235  
00:14:50,200 --> 00:14:52,900  
we printed here from The  
New York Times about Romania

236  
00:14:52,900 --> 00:14:56,200  
having offered for against  
a certain sum of money

237  
00:14:56,200 --> 00:15:00,220  
to take out 70,000  
Jews from Transnistria.

238  
00:15:00,220 --> 00:15:03,680  
Let them go out instead  
of shipping them to go--

239  
00:15:03,680 --> 00:15:05,380  
Romania was prepared to do this?

240  
00:15:05,380 --> 00:15:06,210  
I beg your pardon?

241  
00:15:06,210 --> 00:15:07,210

Romanians offered.

242

00:15:07,210 --> 00:15:09,250

There was a story in  
The Times which is here.

243

00:15:09,250 --> 00:15:15,520

This is the story and we took  
this in a very laconic copy

244

00:15:15,520 --> 00:15:20,070

that Ben Hecht wrote and even  
signed, "To the Four Freedoms,

245

00:15:20,070 --> 00:15:23,290

tell United Nations leaders  
their noble state of mind."

246

00:15:23,290 --> 00:15:27,490

247

00:15:27,490 --> 00:15:33,100

And I really am  
ashamed as a Jew to say

248

00:15:33,100 --> 00:15:39,320

that this obvious  
propaganda to get

249

00:15:39,320 --> 00:15:41,800

to the American people  
designed as said

250

00:15:41,800 --> 00:15:43,820

because the headline was,  
"For sale to humanity,

251

00:15:43,820 --> 00:15:47,310

7,000 Jews guaranteed human  
beings at \$50 apiece."

252

00:15:47,310 --> 00:15:49,060

I mean, if you divided

the amount of money

253

00:15:49,060 --> 00:15:52,930

that the Romanians asked, they  
said that we were selling Jews.

254

00:15:52,930 --> 00:15:53,780

They actually did.

255

00:15:53,780 --> 00:15:55,330

They accused us of  
selling, you're trading,

256

00:15:55,330 --> 00:15:56,497

you're selling Jewish lives.

257

00:15:56,497 --> 00:16:00,526

People understand this as if  
you give me \$50, you save a Jew.

258

00:16:00,526 --> 00:16:03,928

259

00:16:03,928 --> 00:16:06,180

This was a pageant in  
Madison Square Garden

260

00:16:06,180 --> 00:16:07,180

that I mentioned before.

261

00:16:07,180 --> 00:16:08,350

The picture didn't come out.

262

00:16:08,350 --> 00:16:11,470

263

00:16:11,470 --> 00:16:14,280

On this, we nearly  
got the Jews to act,

264

00:16:14,280 --> 00:16:16,620

this "Ballad of the

## Doomed Jews of Europe"

265

00:16:16,620 --> 00:16:19,408  
which Ben Hecht  
wrote and it ends.

266

00:16:19,408 --> 00:16:21,700  
He says the world is busy  
with other news all the time.

267

00:16:21,700 --> 00:16:26,020  
Be quiet, Jews and so forth then  
it says, "Oh world, be patient.

268

00:16:26,020 --> 00:16:29,130  
It will take some time before  
the murder crews are done.

269

00:16:29,130 --> 00:16:31,440  
By Christmas, you can  
make your peace on Earth

270

00:16:31,440 --> 00:16:34,337  
without the Jews."

271

00:16:34,337 --> 00:16:36,420  
While we were waiting for  
an allocation of paper--

272

00:16:36,420 --> 00:16:39,810  
this was during the war, the  
President of the American

273

00:16:39,810 --> 00:16:40,590  
Jewish Congress--

274

00:16:40,590 --> 00:16:43,320  
Mr. Shulman and the president of  
the American Jewish Committee,

275

00:16:43,320 --> 00:16:48,420  
this influential outfit, Justice  
Proskauer called me and invited

276  
00:16:48,420 --> 00:16:51,308  
me for an urgent conference  
and the whole purpose

277  
00:16:51,308 --> 00:16:53,850  
of the urgent conference, the  
first time I met with these two

278  
00:16:53,850 --> 00:16:55,950  
gentlemen in Justice  
Proskauer's home

279  
00:16:55,950 --> 00:16:58,050  
was to stop this ad  
because they were

280  
00:16:58,050 --> 00:17:00,240  
afraid this will arouse  
anti-Semitism because we

281  
00:17:00,240 --> 00:17:03,030  
are mentioning Christmas.

282  
00:17:03,030 --> 00:17:08,250  
And the minute they  
started talking, I said,

283  
00:17:08,250 --> 00:17:11,609  
if you are referring  
to this ad, forget it.

284  
00:17:11,609 --> 00:17:12,717  
We won't publish it.

285  
00:17:12,717 --> 00:17:14,550  
They said, you're willing  
not to publish it?

286  
00:17:14,550 --> 00:17:15,467  
I said, of course not.

287

00:17:15,467 --> 00:17:18,990  
I mean, we have no illusions  
that one ad will save the Jews.

288  
00:17:18,990 --> 00:17:20,869  
You are very influential people.

289  
00:17:20,869 --> 00:17:21,869  
You have a lot of power.

290  
00:17:21,869 --> 00:17:24,250  
We are doing this to  
arouse public opinion.

291  
00:17:24,250 --> 00:17:26,369  
If you think it may do  
some damage, forget it.

292  
00:17:26,369 --> 00:17:28,890  
Let's talk about what can  
we do to save the Jews.

293  
00:17:28,890 --> 00:17:30,510  
Let's organize a  
joint committee.

294  
00:17:30,510 --> 00:17:31,860  
Let's pull forces.

295  
00:17:31,860 --> 00:17:35,070  
You organize a committee  
and we'll disband.

296  
00:17:35,070 --> 00:17:38,220  
And Proskauer started crying  
and I thought, my God.

297  
00:17:38,220 --> 00:17:41,040  
I really broke through a  
little bit and sure enough,

298  
00:17:41,040 --> 00:17:44,490  
after 10 days we had one meeting

with a bunch of Jewish leaders

299

00:17:44,490 --> 00:17:46,680  
and when they saw that  
we withdrew the ad,

300

00:17:46,680 --> 00:17:49,030  
they never answered our  
phone calls afterwards.

301

00:17:49,030 --> 00:17:52,560  
So this ad was supposed  
to appear on Christmas

302

00:17:52,560 --> 00:17:54,718  
and then finally  
published in September.

303

00:17:54,718 --> 00:17:57,860

304

00:17:57,860 --> 00:18:00,370  
Why did he cry, Mr. Proskauer?

305

00:18:00,370 --> 00:18:03,075  
Because I was talking  
about Jews dying every day

306

00:18:03,075 --> 00:18:04,700  
while we are talking  
there and so forth

307

00:18:04,700 --> 00:18:07,180  
and I tried to convey  
the sense of urgency.

308

00:18:07,180 --> 00:18:13,540  
The whole task was to break  
the routine of daily life

309

00:18:13,540 --> 00:18:15,577  
that when you have a  
horror like this happening,

310  
00:18:15,577 --> 00:18:16,910  
people want to run away from it.

311  
00:18:16,910 --> 00:18:18,660  
The bureaucratic routine  
of organizations.

312  
00:18:18,660 --> 00:18:19,840  
Correct.

313  
00:18:19,840 --> 00:18:23,660  
Also in America, there was  
a war and this argument

314  
00:18:23,660 --> 00:18:26,410  
that all you're doing to win the  
war is the most important thing

315  
00:18:26,410 --> 00:18:28,360  
was a very potent  
and powerful argument

316  
00:18:28,360 --> 00:18:30,760  
except that we said there  
is a war within a war

317  
00:18:30,760 --> 00:18:32,690  
and you have to take this front.

318  
00:18:32,690 --> 00:18:34,150  
It's the front of the war.

319  
00:18:34,150 --> 00:18:35,980  
Against the Jews, was  
a war within a war.

320  
00:18:35,980 --> 00:18:38,200  
Within a war,  
precisely, and this war

321  
00:18:38,200 --> 00:18:41,560

has to be handled because  
it's part of the greater war.

322  
00:18:41,560 --> 00:18:43,192  
To be handled with  
specific needs.

323  
00:18:43,192 --> 00:18:45,850  
Here we have an ad here that  
says, "Report of Failure

324  
00:18:45,850 --> 00:18:48,880  
and a Call to Action,"  
saying, "we failed

325  
00:18:48,880 --> 00:18:51,310  
to persuade governments  
to make measures to save

326  
00:18:51,310 --> 00:18:52,660  
the Jewish people of Europe.

327  
00:18:52,660 --> 00:18:55,150  
Now we must turn  
to mass action."

328  
00:18:55,150 --> 00:19:00,550  
That was trying to call  
people to launch a petition.

329  
00:19:00,550 --> 00:19:02,500  
We did many, many other things.

330  
00:19:02,500 --> 00:19:05,350  
We did pageants.

331  
00:19:05,350 --> 00:19:09,220  
We had endless meetings,  
thousands of them,

332  
00:19:09,220 --> 00:19:10,510  
small, large.

333

00:19:10,510 --> 00:19:12,200

Yes, on this matter  
of the rabbis.

334

00:19:12,200 --> 00:19:12,700

Yeah.

335

00:19:12,700 --> 00:19:14,920

Then we organized a--

336

00:19:14,920 --> 00:19:17,110

Try to explain this in detail.

337

00:19:17,110 --> 00:19:18,050

What, the march?

338

00:19:18,050 --> 00:19:18,730

Yes.

339

00:19:18,730 --> 00:19:20,710

We organized the march.

340

00:19:20,710 --> 00:19:23,050

We thought it would be  
a very effective thing

341

00:19:23,050 --> 00:19:27,650

to mobilize rabbis to go  
to Washington on a march,

342

00:19:27,650 --> 00:19:29,837

a peaceful demonstration.

343

00:19:29,837 --> 00:19:31,670

In those days, one  
didn't think of violence.

344

00:19:31,670 --> 00:19:39,420

I wonder why, but we didn't  
and after we have announced it,

345

00:19:39,420 --> 00:19:43,200  
to our horror, we couldn't  
find any rabbis who

346  
00:19:43,200 --> 00:19:46,260  
were willing to march because  
we thought if we'll ask them,

347  
00:19:46,260 --> 00:19:46,890  
they'll say no.

348  
00:19:46,890 --> 00:19:49,820  
If you do it, how  
could they not march?

349  
00:19:49,820 --> 00:19:52,170  
It says you should  
not stand idly

350  
00:19:52,170 --> 00:19:55,770  
by on the blood of your  
brother, the sacred commandment,

351  
00:19:55,770 --> 00:19:56,490  
you know?

352  
00:19:56,490 --> 00:19:57,300  
They didn't march.

353  
00:19:57,300 --> 00:20:00,420  
In about two weeks  
before the march,

354  
00:20:00,420 --> 00:20:03,060  
the late rabbi Eliezer Silver--  
not the Zionist leader,

355  
00:20:03,060 --> 00:20:05,160  
the president of Agudath Israel.

356  
00:20:05,160 --> 00:20:06,740  
A non-Zionist?

357

00:20:06,740 --> 00:20:09,540

Right, it's a  
non-Zionist organization.

358

00:20:09,540 --> 00:20:12,480

He issued an order to  
the Orthodox rabbis

359

00:20:12,480 --> 00:20:15,180

that he was president of  
organization of Orthodox rabbis

360

00:20:15,180 --> 00:20:17,280

and he himself came  
and marched, the head

361

00:20:17,280 --> 00:20:21,690

of the thing and then about  
400 or 500 rabbis showed up

362

00:20:21,690 --> 00:20:23,130

and we organized a special--

363

00:20:23,130 --> 00:20:25,260

Very, very religious rabbi?

364

00:20:25,260 --> 00:20:27,630

Orthodox, real  
Orthodox rabbis, yes.

365

00:20:27,630 --> 00:20:30,840

There are some very powerful  
pictures around there

366

00:20:30,840 --> 00:20:36,120

and as I said, the  
culmination of this

367

00:20:36,120 --> 00:20:38,490

was supposed to be  
meeting with Roosevelt

368

00:20:38,490 --> 00:20:42,525  
and we worked very hard to  
pressure, use all our senators

369  
00:20:42,525 --> 00:20:45,150  
if we could mobilize to  
pressure the White House

370  
00:20:45,150 --> 00:20:48,870  
and it nearly worked and finally  
under the Jewish pressure

371  
00:20:48,870 --> 00:20:52,445  
inside overcame and they  
took the president out

372  
00:20:52,445 --> 00:20:53,820  
of the White House  
in order to be

373  
00:20:53,820 --> 00:20:55,530  
able to tell the  
rabbis that he was

374  
00:20:55,530 --> 00:20:59,430  
out of town and technically,

375  
00:20:59,430 --> 00:21:01,800  
it wasn't lie because he  
went out of town in order

376  
00:21:01,800 --> 00:21:05,250  
to be able to say he was out  
of town and the important thing

377  
00:21:05,250 --> 00:21:08,460  
that he was engaged  
in was to witness

378  
00:21:08,460 --> 00:21:11,700  
the takeoff of a bomber who  
flew to [INAUDIBLE] supposedly.

379

00:21:11,700 --> 00:21:13,530

It was in The  
Times the next day.

380

00:21:13,530 --> 00:21:14,910

It was more important?

381

00:21:14,910 --> 00:21:17,507

It was more important that  
he should honor it there.

382

00:21:17,507 --> 00:21:18,840

The bomber could have been sent.

383

00:21:18,840 --> 00:21:20,580

I mean, I don't say that  
the bomber wasn't important

384

00:21:20,580 --> 00:21:21,630

but the bomber--

385

00:21:21,630 --> 00:21:23,340

we didn't need  
Roosevelt's technical aid

386

00:21:23,340 --> 00:21:26,273

to send the bomber  
but his presence there

387

00:21:26,273 --> 00:21:28,440

was more important than  
receiving the rabbis to deal

388

00:21:28,440 --> 00:21:31,200

with this question because  
they were trying to take off

389

00:21:31,200 --> 00:21:32,250

public opinion pressure.

390

00:21:32,250 --> 00:21:34,710

We were trying to build  
public opinion pressure.

391  
00:21:34,710 --> 00:21:38,070  
In the final analysis all this--

392  
00:21:38,070 --> 00:21:39,280  
You said, they were trying.

393  
00:21:39,280 --> 00:21:39,780  
Who is they?

394  
00:21:39,780 --> 00:21:42,220  
The administration.

395  
00:21:42,220 --> 00:21:48,000  
The Zionists by that  
time they really

396  
00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:53,000  
felt that we were hurting the  
cause of Palestine of Zionism.

397  
00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:55,680  
They thought that  
we are too far out

398  
00:21:55,680 --> 00:21:57,810  
in stressing the  
humanitarian aspect

399  
00:21:57,810 --> 00:22:00,038  
and ignoring because  
we didn't mention--

400  
00:22:00,038 --> 00:22:01,830  
you wouldn't find the  
word Palestine in any

401  
00:22:01,830 --> 00:22:03,540  
of these ads, not one word.

402  
00:22:03,540 --> 00:22:08,850  
We were trying to create

a separate raison,

403

00:22:08,850 --> 00:22:12,810

separate purpose, which is  
a humanitarian salvation

404

00:22:12,810 --> 00:22:15,180

and ignoring the fact of  
the political argument

405

00:22:15,180 --> 00:22:19,830

with the British over  
Palestine, separating the two.

406

00:22:19,830 --> 00:22:25,845

Finally, whatever  
good the war refugee--

407

00:22:25,845 --> 00:22:30,112

408

00:22:30,112 --> 00:22:33,570

(film slating)

409

00:22:33,570 --> 00:22:37,743

410

00:22:37,743 --> 00:22:39,160

Well, he perceived  
something over

411

00:22:39,160 --> 00:22:44,000

the arrival of this  
group of 500 rabbis

412

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:46,310

in the morning in Washington.

413

00:22:46,310 --> 00:22:50,150

All of them came with the train?

414

00:22:50,150 --> 00:22:55,430

They came from various parts  
of the country but you see,

415  
00:22:55,430 --> 00:22:57,620  
it was part of an overall--

416  
00:22:57,620 --> 00:23:00,080  
we were talking  
before about the ads.

417  
00:23:00,080 --> 00:23:07,840  
In this effort to mobilize  
general public opinion,

418  
00:23:07,840 --> 00:23:11,900  
to overcome the passivity  
of the Jewish establishment

419  
00:23:11,900 --> 00:23:14,030  
and the Zionist  
establishment, we

420  
00:23:14,030 --> 00:23:19,940  
thought of dramatizing the  
cause and we had a lot of people

421  
00:23:19,940 --> 00:23:22,800  
and we did a pageant  
and we did a play.

422  
00:23:22,800 --> 00:23:24,410  
And one of the  
ideas that came up

423  
00:23:24,410 --> 00:23:26,540  
was to organize  
a march of rabbis

424  
00:23:26,540 --> 00:23:32,090  
and it was one of the most  
effective propaganda steps

425  
00:23:32,090 --> 00:23:33,560

that was done.

426

00:23:33,560 --> 00:23:36,350

Particularly important was  
that the vice president

427

00:23:36,350 --> 00:23:42,830

of the United States was so  
moved by the whole situation

428

00:23:42,830 --> 00:23:45,180

that he agreed to stop  
the session of the Senate.

429

00:23:45,180 --> 00:23:47,840

There were very rare occasions  
that the Senate of the session

430

00:23:47,840 --> 00:23:51,690

is stopped specifically  
in order to go outside.

431

00:23:51,690 --> 00:23:52,910

What did they do, the rabbis?

432

00:23:52,910 --> 00:23:54,320

They came and what?

433

00:23:54,320 --> 00:23:55,250

They know, they know.

434

00:23:55,250 --> 00:23:57,830

They marched from  
the station which

435

00:23:57,830 --> 00:24:01,940

is not too far from the Capitol  
and when they arrived, somebody

436

00:24:01,940 --> 00:24:05,960

went to the right people  
to alert the Senate

437

00:24:05,960 --> 00:24:08,210

and then the Senate  
stopped it's session.

438

00:24:08,210 --> 00:24:10,610

The vice president invited  
all the senators to come out

439

00:24:10,610 --> 00:24:12,080

and there was a  
group of senators

440

00:24:12,080 --> 00:24:14,630

led by the vice president  
of the United States

441

00:24:14,630 --> 00:24:17,590

who came out to the steps  
and they stood there

442

00:24:17,590 --> 00:24:21,800

and then these 400  
to 500 rabbis came up

443

00:24:21,800 --> 00:24:25,270

and their leaders headed  
by Rabbi Silver had

444

00:24:25,270 --> 00:24:31,010

the ready petition and then they  
said a prayer and many of them

445

00:24:31,010 --> 00:24:33,320

cried very, very emotionally.

446

00:24:33,320 --> 00:24:34,340

They cried?

447

00:24:34,340 --> 00:24:35,660

They cried especially--

448

00:24:35,660 --> 00:24:40,370

The only words of the petition  
was, "In the name of God,

449  
00:24:40,370 --> 00:24:43,520  
creator of the  
universe, blessed be

450  
00:24:43,520 --> 00:24:47,180  
He who voiced our holy Torah.

451  
00:24:47,180 --> 00:24:50,270  
They commend, thou  
shalt not stand idly

452  
00:24:50,270 --> 00:24:52,700  
by the blood of thy neighbor.

453  
00:24:52,700 --> 00:24:55,330  
I am the Lord."

454  
00:24:55,330 --> 00:24:56,530  
They started like this?

455  
00:24:56,530 --> 00:24:57,640  
Yes.

456  
00:24:57,640 --> 00:25:01,900  
And then the vice  
president answered

457  
00:25:01,900 --> 00:25:07,570  
in a few very general but  
very fine emotional words.

458  
00:25:07,570 --> 00:25:13,660  
He didn't make any specific  
political statement

459  
00:25:13,660 --> 00:25:17,600  
and then they read the petition,  
the one that Mr. Merlin gave,

460

00:25:17,600 --> 00:25:20,860  
beginning the whole  
thing and then

461  
00:25:20,860 --> 00:25:22,720  
we all marched to  
the White House.

462  
00:25:22,720 --> 00:25:27,160  
I mean, I am not a  
rabbi but I was there

463  
00:25:27,160 --> 00:25:29,770  
and the march to the  
White House required

464  
00:25:29,770 --> 00:25:33,010  
stopping of traffic all  
the way, the same march

465  
00:25:33,010 --> 00:25:34,875  
and the presidential  
inauguration--

466  
00:25:34,875 --> 00:25:37,000  
it goes the other way, it  
goes from the White House

467  
00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:41,260  
to Congress, it is a distance  
of about 2 to 3 miles, I think.

468  
00:25:41,260 --> 00:25:43,510  
It took about a  
good hour and a half

469  
00:25:43,510 --> 00:25:45,250  
I think because we  
walked very slowly

470  
00:25:45,250 --> 00:25:48,370  
and all traffic in the  
heart of Washington stopped.

471

00:25:48,370 --> 00:25:49,590

There were old people?

472

00:25:49,590 --> 00:25:51,287

There were people  
of various ages.

473

00:25:51,287 --> 00:25:52,120

There were also old.

474

00:25:52,120 --> 00:25:56,230

There were also  
rabbis of all ages.

475

00:25:56,230 --> 00:26:04,690

I think it was a very dramatic  
thing and even the opponents,

476

00:26:04,690 --> 00:26:08,713

I mean, the establishment  
couldn't attack this even

477

00:26:08,713 --> 00:26:09,880

though they poked fun of it.

478

00:26:09,880 --> 00:26:15,490

I mean, in one of those articles  
we saw before, they were saying

479

00:26:15,490 --> 00:26:18,700

that they were led by a  
little kid with a quote

480

00:26:18,700 --> 00:26:20,170

from the Bible.

481

00:26:20,170 --> 00:26:22,240

But the effect was there.

482

00:26:22,240 --> 00:26:43,038

I believe that to  
summarize the pressure

483  
00:26:43,038 --> 00:26:46,720  
of the constant horror.

484  
00:26:46,720 --> 00:26:50,020  
I mean, the realization  
every day of so many people

485  
00:26:50,020 --> 00:26:52,160  
killed was just too  
much to comprehend.

486  
00:26:52,160 --> 00:26:57,250  
I mean, I am not trying  
to justify people.

487  
00:26:57,250 --> 00:27:10,390  
I just feel that  
whatever the motivations,

488  
00:27:10,390 --> 00:27:17,080  
that it is important today and  
this is the one thing I cannot

489  
00:27:17,080 --> 00:27:20,290  
understand is why  
30 years later,

490  
00:27:20,290 --> 00:27:26,980  
the Jewish leaders who still  
alive don't recant and say mea

491  
00:27:26,980 --> 00:27:28,240  
culpa.

492  
00:27:28,240 --> 00:27:33,460  
This is important but I  
really feel that at the time,

493  
00:27:33,460 --> 00:27:35,950  
they were just too  
overwhelmed and too petrified.

494

00:27:35,950 --> 00:27:37,090

That's what I started with.

495

00:27:37,090 --> 00:27:42,370

I think fear is a

very deadly feeling

496

00:27:42,370 --> 00:27:44,950

and I think they

were just afraid

497

00:27:44,950 --> 00:27:48,010

and when fear is not

justified, it becomes anxiety

498

00:27:48,010 --> 00:27:50,380

and this is even more

deadly than it could be.

499

00:27:50,380 --> 00:27:55,120

500

00:27:55,120 --> 00:27:58,886

(film logistics)

501

00:27:58,886 --> 00:30:21,000