

THE CINCINNATI JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND WELFARE FUND

1930-1939

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UP TO 1930 Cincinnati Jewry suffered from all the ills of incompletely organized communities, especially in the field of campaigns for non-local agencies. Different and often unrelated groups in the community assumed the responsibilities of collecting funds for various organizations. Frequently, these local groups carried on their activities in a more or less amateurish fashion, unguided or not sufficiently guided by the larger bodies which they served. They accepted goals assigned by the national organizations rather than quotas dictated by local conditions, or the objectively determined needs of the organization. The success of the campaign depended more upon the popularity of the individuals in charge than upon the merits of the campaign itself.

The multiplicity of campaigns strained the patience of contributors. They were importuned from all sides and at every season of the year. Worthy causes suffered because the campaigns in their behalf were carried on in rapid succession. Often an undesirable type of competition developed among bodies rivaling one another for the attention of the community. All groups suffered because of the loss of good will occasioned by the too frequently dunning of the Jewish public. Solicitors were called upon too frequently to give up time for various campaigns. The expenses for the conduct of the campaign were disproportionately high. Finally, little, if any effort, was made by agencies conducting such campaigns to educate the public as to their program and needs.

About a decade ago certain communities in the West and Midwest began to experiment with an all-inclusive united campaign. This type of campaign had also been thought of by the leading Jewish citizens of Cincinnati as the solution for the problem of collecting funds. However, at the outset many of the leaders were unwilling to assume responsibility for running a united campaign. It was thought that the community could be prepared by a gradual educational process to undertake the responsibility for conducting an all-inclusive united campaign. This was the stimulus for the creation of the Jewish Community Council.

ORIGIN OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Thus it happened that on February 28, 1929, a preliminary meeting, consisting of representatives of 25 organizations, was called by