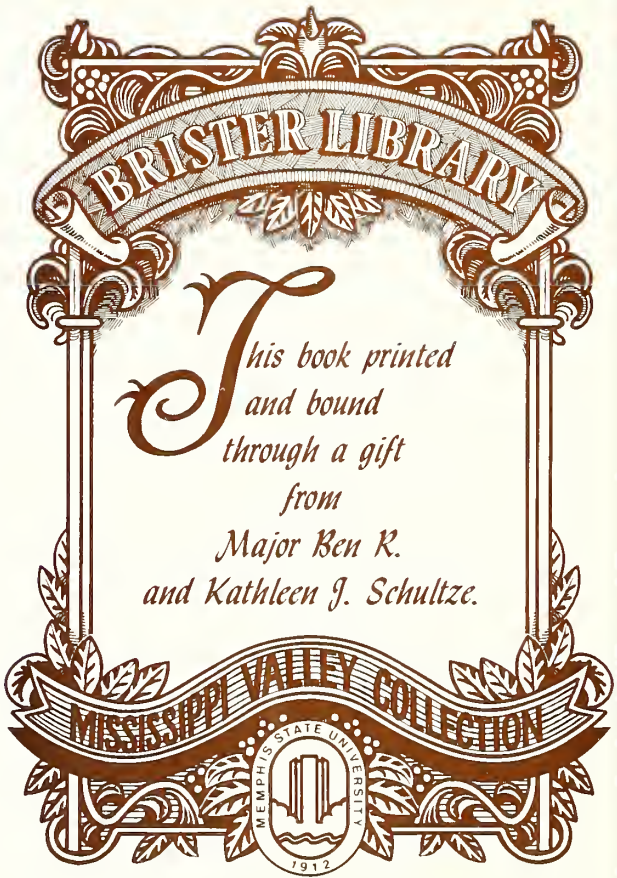


"MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY RESPONSE  
TO THE HOLOCAUST"  
INTERVIEW WITH PHILIP BELZ  
OCTOBER 23, 1989

BY A. MARK LEVIN  
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE  
MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY





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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF MEMPHIS AND ITS AWARENESS OF, AND  
RESPONSE TO, THE GROWING CRISIS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN  
GERMANY UNDER HITLER, 1938 - 1939

INTERVIEW WITH PHILIP BELZ

OCTOBER 23, 1989

BY A. MARK LEVIN

STUDENT, ORAL HISTORY CLASS, DR. CHARLES W. CRAWFORD

MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY



MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY  
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE

Statement to be Made by The  
Interviewer At The Beginning Of  
Each Interview

This is Memphis State University Oral History Research Office project:  
"The Memphis Jewish Community and its response to the  
growing crisis of the Jewish community in Germany  
under Hitler, 1938-1939"

Date: Monday, October 23, 1989

Interview with (Name): Mr. Philip Belz

4 Belleair Dr.

Address : Memphis, Tennessee

Interviewer: A. Mark Levin





MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY  
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE

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PLACE

Memphis, Tn.

DATE

October 23, 1989

Phillip Belz

(Interviewee)

A. Mark Levin

(For the Mississippi Valley Archives  
of the John Willard Brister Library of  
Memphis State University)



THIS IS THE ORAL HISTORY CLASS OF MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY. THE PROJECT IS "THE MEMPHIS JEWISH COMMUNITY AND ITS AWARENESS OF, AND RESPONSE TO, THE GROWING CRISIS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN GERMANY UNDER HITLER, 1938-1939." THE DATE IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1989. THE PLACE IS MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. THE INTERVIEW IS WITH MR. PHILIP BELZ. THE INTERVIEW IS BY A. MARK LEVIN, A STUDENT IN THE ORAL HISTORY CLASS OF DR. CHARLES W. CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY OFFICE. THE INTERVIEW WAS TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY A. MARK LEVIN.

MR. LEVIN: Hello, Mr. Belz. If we may, I would like to start this interview today with exploring your family background. A little bit about your family, your parents and your life in Memphis when you arrived here.

MR. BELZ: All right.

MR. LEVIN: Where were your parents born, Mr. Belz?

MR. BELZ: My parents were born in Galicia, in the city of Lancut.

MR. LEVIN: How do you spell that?

MR. BELZ: L-a-n-c-u-t. Lancut.

MR. LEVIN: L-a-n-c-u-t. In Galicia.

MR. BELZ: In Galicia, and it was probably about thirty kilometers from Shtetele [Yiddish for "small village" or "town"] Belz. Now, do you want me to talk about my family?



MR. LEVIN: How old were they when they came to the United States?

MR. BELZ: Well, let's see, my father came in 1904, and he died in 1956. He was 69 years old. He was born, I think, in 1887, I think.

MR. LEVIN: In 1887?

MR. BELZ: He was only twenty some-odd years old when he came to the United States.

MR. LEVIN: Did he marry your mother in Galicia?

MR. BELZ: In Galicia.

MR. LEVIN: In Poland?

MR. BELZ: Yeah. In Lancut. It wasn't Poland then. It was Galicia.

MR. LEVIN: He married as a very young man. When he came to the United States in 1904, why did he come to the United States?

MR. BELZ: He came to the United States in 1904 because his older brother had already gone to the United States, and that's where he settled. That's Jake Belz' father.

MR. LEVIN: Your uncle and your father were not happy in Galicia?

MR. BELZ: Some [interruption at this point and tape is turned off] ...

MR. LEVIN: Mr. Belz, your father and your uncle left Galicia, as did many Jews, because they faced forced conscription into the Russian army.





MR. BELZ: Not Russian army. [The] Austrian army.

MR. LEVIN: Into the Austrian army. And I know Jews who shot off their trigger fingers.

MR. BELZ: Both hands -- both fingers.

MR. LEVIN: Did your uncle and your father leave because they felt that it was not good for Jews in Galicia? Was there anti-Semitism?

MR. BELZ: Well, there was no anti-Semitism at that time in Galicia. The reason that they left was because of religious reasons. Their father was a highly respected person in the community. He was the --

MR. LEVIN: What was his name?

MR. BELZ: His name was Yehuda Yaakov, ben Avrohom [Judah Jacob, son of Abraham - Hebrew name].

MR. LEVIN: The son of Avrohom.

MR. BELZ: The son of Avrohom. Yes. And he even -- he had a beautiful voice and he conducted -- he had twelve men that sang in his choir, and my mother even told me that one time he davvened [Yiddish for prayed. In this context, it means he led the public prayer service] in the city of Belz, and she said there was thousands of Chassidim [lit. "pious ones." Here it means followers of the Chassidic Jewish movement] that heard him on the High Holidays, so he was there for that. I think he had Semicha [Rabbinic ordination] too -- but the main thing he got was Shechitah [a license as a qualified ritual slaughterer to slaughter cattle and sheep in accordance with Orthodox Jewish religious law]. The



Belzer Rebbe [the Rabbi of the Chassidim who originated from the town of Belz] in those days I think [unintelligible] was his name, because he blessed me too when I was four years old. And he told him that he wanted him to go and practice [Shechita - ritual slaughter of kosher animals for food] in the city of Lancut because they didn't have a shochet, and that's where he went and he was there for forty years. I have papers here that I can give you that will tell you the history of my grandfather.

MR. LEVIN: Your father and your uncle, when they left Galicia, were there good economic opportunities for them in Galicia?

MR. BELZ: Well, how to economic possibilities there. I'm sure that most of the people in the city where I was born and where my father had a business which was not a business that [he or] anybody had to fear for his life or anything like that. He had a nice business, and what he was in was wholesale leather, and I call him one of the first oil men, because everybody had lamps at that time. And he was selling naft, which of course means oil. But he made his own oil by mixing benzine and naptha. They [the customers] used to come there with their little lamps and everything else to get oil in order to burn. She also had candles, and I guess they made a nice living for the time he was there.

MR. LEVIN: You were born in Lancut?

MR. BELZ: I was born in Lancut, yes.





MR. LEVIN: So your father left Lancut and came to America in 1904.

MR. BELZ: 1904. I was eleven months old when he left.

MR. LEVIN: Why did he come to Memphis?

MR. BELZ: Because his older brother, who had preceded him by four years, in 1900, was already in Memphis, and that's where he came because he figured he had somebody here that would teach him what to do and how to do it, I guess.

MR. LEVIN: What was their port of entry into the United States?

MR. BELZ: It was Ellis Island.

MR. LEVIN: They came through Ellis Island? How long was your father in Memphis before he brought your mother and you over?

MR. BELZ: He peddled for five and a half years.

MR. LEVIN: You say he peddled. What do you mean?

MR. BELZ: He sold dry goods house to house.

MR. LEVIN: In Memphis?

MR. BELZ: In Memphis, yeah. And he used to drive a horse and buggy. Well, the horse and buggy was a little later, in about 1911. He used to go even as far out as Raleigh Springs with the horse and buggy. We lived where St. Jude is today, where most of the Jews lived. The Pinch.

MR. LEVIN: So it was five years before he was able to bring you over.



MR. BELZ: Yes, he left 1904. We came in 1910. It was six years.

MR. LEVIN: Six years, and you were born in 1903.

MR. BELZ: 1904, January the 15th.

MR. LEVIN: January 15, 1904. Do you have any siblings? Any brothers or sisters?

MR. BELZ: No, I had a sister, but she was born in Memphis, and she died when she was 33.

MR. LEVIN: She died at a very young age?

MR. BELZ: Yes, there's a story about that too.

MR. LEVIN: Maybe we could explore that some other time, Mr. Belz. You came to Memphis in 1910.

MR. BELZ: I was six years old.

MR. LEVIN: At the age of six.

MR. BELZ: October.

MR. LEVIN: Do you remember where you went to elementary school?

MR. BELZ: Sure. Certainly. I went to school at Merrill School on Mosby Street. Mosby and Jones [Street].

MR. LEVIN: Mosby and Jones, the Merrill School.

MR. BELZ: It's the area where St. Jude is now.

MR. LEVIN: And you graduated from elementary school?

MR. BELZ: Yes. But I graduated from Riverside Elementary school. We had already gone into the grocery business that you saw the store there. [Mr. Belz points to a



picture of himself and his parents in the store and which he had earlier shown the interviewer.] And I graduated in 1914.

MR. LEVIN: In 1914 from elementary school?

MR. BELZ: In 1914. Four years -- anyway, I was fourteen years old when I graduated.

MR. LEVIN: Did you then go to high school?

MR. BELZ: I went to high school for one year and a half.

MR. LEVIN: Which high school was that?

MR. BELZ: Central.

MR. LEVIN: Central High School?

MR. BELZ: I played in the orchestra there then.

MR. LEVIN: Why did you leave Central High School after a year and a half?

MR. BELZ: Because it was during the influenza epidemic, my father and mother who all worked in the store.

MR. LEVIN: In the grocery store?

MR. BELZ: Yeah, and they were in bed with influenza, and I had to quit school in order to run the business.

We had a very nice business.

MR. LEVIN: And so, at the age of fifteen and a half --

MR. BELZ: I was already in business with my father, you know, running the business. But I went to night school. I went to night school, vocational school that was on Poplar Street where the First Tennessee Bank -- Poplar and Danny Thomas Boulevard. And at night I studied accounting and I studied cotton classing.

MR. LEVIN: And did you graduate from that school?





MR. BELZ: There was no graduation. Just completed the courses that we had in that, and the reason that I studied cotton was because in 1918, we opened a cotton gin in Cedarview, Mississippi, which is right out of Olive Branch. And then the following year, during the cotton season, you know, when they baled the cotton, I spent the whole week in Cedarview, and on Saturday night I would come home, because that was the busiest night in the store, so I helped in the store, and Monday morning, I'd go back to Mississippi. Now, we had a cotton gin there, and that's the reason I studied cotton. I bought cotton and bought cottonseed. I sold them. At the same time, I was running the cotton gin.

MR. LEVIN: Were your parents associated with any Synagogue?

MR. BELZ: Sure. My daddy was one of the early members of the Galicianer Shul, which was at Jackson and Second.

MR. LEVIN: The Galicianer. G-a-l-i-c-i-a-n-e r.

MR. BELZ: The Galicianer Shul.

MR. LEVIN: The Galicianer Shul. Where was it located?

MR. BELZ: At Jackson and Second.

MR. LEVIN: At Jackson and Second.

MR. BELZ: Upstairs.

MR. LEVIN: And that's the Synagogue in which you were Bar Mitzva-ed [attained the age of Jewish religious majority -- 13 years old]?

MR. BELZ: Um-hm.

MR. LEVIN: In the Galicianer Synagogue?



MR. BELZ: Right. But I was already singing at Baron Hirsch. I started singing at Baron Hirsch when I was eight and a half years old. I was a soloist at eight and a half. I used to go to High Holidays and go visit my daddy in between services.

MR. LEVIN: At what point did you become a more full-fledged member of the Baron Hirsch Synagogue?

MR. BELZ: Well, I was on the Board already, I think, in 1932.

MR. LEVIN: So, by 1932, you had already become affiliated with the Baron Hirsch Synagogue and had been elected and nominated to the Board? And the Rabbi at the time. Do you remember his name?

MR. BELZ: At that time, we had one Rabbi named Tunkel. He actually wasn't a full-fledged Rabbi. He was an interpreter at one time for the government, speaking so many languages. We had a lot of trouble, but we had though, we had a wonderful Chazzan [Hebrew for "cantor" - usually an observant Jew with a melodious voice who led the Sabbath Services].

MR. LEVIN: Cantor.

MR. BELZ: Cantor Feibish.

MR. LEVIN: F-e-i-b-i-s-h.

MR. BELZ: Right. He had a magnificent voice and came from Moscow, from the big Synagogue in Moscow.

MR. LEVIN: And he taught you?

MR. BELZ: He heard me sing in Cheder [Jewish religious





supplementary school] when I was eight years old, and he had such a beautiful alto voice that he decided that he wanted me in the choir, and so I sang in the choir, and the first year that I was in the choir, he taught me -- he lived a block from me, so I'd go over there, you know, and study with him. And I sang, I remember, Adam Yesodo Me-afar [Hebrew prayer which begins, "Man, whose origins are from dust," and is part of the High Holy Day liturgy]. It was a solo, the first solo I sang. Anyway, the first year that I sang, they paid me \$50, in those days, that was in 1911.

MR. LEVIN: It was a princely sum.

MR. BELZ: That's right -- a princely sum, because my daddy took that money and bought me a flute. Then I'll tell you the story about the flute. We lived in a four-apartment building, two upstairs and two downstairs, at the corner of Hill and Mosby. And the living room -- we had enough rooms there that we didn't hardly use the living room. We called it the "front room" in those days, not a living room. And my father had a friend whose name was Glassberg. He was about a six-foot-two peddler. Also doing the same thing that my daddy was doing. And he told my daddy (and he was a flutist from Germany; he was a German), and he says "if you'll let me have that front room to live in (he was a bachelor), I'll teach your son music." And that's where I started playing flute when I was eight and a half years old.

MR. LEVIN: I know that music is a very special love of



yours, and that you have a very beautiful voice,  
Mr. Belz. Mr. Belz. What year did you get married?

MR. BELZ: November 1, 1925. I'll be married sixty-four  
years in ten days.

MR. LEVIN: May they proliferate. Congratulations. [You  
were married] in 1925. When did you meet your  
wife?

MR. BELZ: When she was fourteen years old, I met her.

MR. LEVIN: Here in Memphis?

MR. BELZ: Yes, here in Memphis. See, they had the biggest  
little department store in Memphis. Out in  
North Memphis, and we were in South Memphis. I'll tell you a  
story about that which is very interesting. Now, my father-  
in-law --

MR. LEVIN: What was his name?

MR. BELZ: His name is Aaron Thomas.

MR. LEVIN: Aaron Thomas?

MR. BELZ: Yes. My father-in-law came also from Russia,  
from Kiev, in 1902, I think it was when they  
came. My mother-in-law had a brother by the name of Rosen-  
thal, who had the largest store, called "The Grand Leader,"  
on Beale Street and was selling merchandise to all of the  
peddlers too. But they had a four-story building where his  
store was, and my father-in-law and my mother-in-law lived on  
the second floor, so to speak, and they came here with two  
children, Nathan Thomas and Bessie Thomas [later] Bessie  
Shainberg. You knew them. And my daddy and some other



peddlers, some of the people who are members of your Shul [referring to the Orthodox Anshei Sphard Synagogue, of which the interviewer is Rabbi]. The Katz family and all the Weisses. Dovid Weiss was the grandfather of all these people. They all were members of the Galicianer Shul. There were about four bachelors that lived on the third floor, and my daddy lived with them. Now, Sarah was born on Beale Street during the time before they went in business out in Thomas Street. Every afternoon, my mother-in-law told me that when he used to come home from peddling and Sarah was a little baby, he [Mr. Belz's father whose wife was still in Galicia] would sit down and hold her and cry -- his little baby -- and how he left me when I was eleven months old, and he was longing for his child [Philip Belz, then still a baby with his mother in Galicia]. But she said that tears would be coming down and it's the truth -- and here it comes that many years later --

MR. LEVIN: That the same baby that your father held as a bachelor --

MR. BELZ: As a bachelor -- he wasn't no bachelor. He was married --

MR. LEVIN: But his wife was in Galicia.

MR. BELZ: In Galicia -- she ran the store. My mother ran the store. That's that big story that I tell -- the reason why the Belzer Rebbe blessed me -- didn't I ever tell you that story?

MR. LEVIN: You told me once.



MR. BELZ: Yes, that's what I thought. Anyway --

MR. LEVIN: And you were married November 1, 1925.

MR. BELZ: At Fourth and Washington in this Shul that I sang solos in all these years, from the time I started singing.

MR. LEVIN: In the Baron Hirsch Synagogue.

MR. BELZ: That's right.

MR. LEVIN: And in 1932, you became a member of the Baron Hirsch Synagogue?

MR. BELZ: No, I was a member when I got married already.

MR. LEVIN: You were a member when you got married already? And you became a member of the Board in 1932?

MR. BELZ: Yeah, the Board.

MR. LEVIN: Were you involved in any of the other Jewish organizations in Memphis at the time. The Arbeitering (Workmen's Circle), for example.

MR. BELZ: I was not a member of the Arbeitering.

MR. LEVIN: Of the Zionists.

MR. BELZ: Zionists? I don't know what year but I've been a member for fifty years already. But when I was so young, I don't know. I became a Mason when I was 21 years old. I belonged to B'nai Brith all those years.

MR. LEVIN: You were a member of B'nai Brith?

MR. BELZ: B'nai Brith. Yes.

MR. LEVIN: And the AZA?

MR. BELZ: Yes, AZA. The AZA I presume I was too old for them, I think.





MR. LEVIN: You were too old for the AZA?

MR. BELZ: Yes, but I went to B'nai Brith.

MR. LEVIN: If we might remember the times and the years that you can remember, did you experience or feel that there was anti-Semitism here in Memphis?

MR. BELZ: No. You know, you hear sometimes that there was somebody got chased or something like that, but I personally have never experienced anything like that.

MR. LEVIN: For example, were Jews denied membership in clubs?

MR. BELZ: Well, yes, I would say yes, even the Memphis Country Club. They didn't have no Jews, did they? And whatever club they had, the Jews had a country club of their own. We had a club called the Rex Club, which was in a building at Dudley and Madison.

MR. LEVIN: Dr. Louis Levy was involved in that.

MR. BELZ: Yes, he was, and we had the YMHA. Beautiful building -- swimming pool and everything.

MR. LEVIN: Was there a quota system in the medical school, the dental school --?

MR. BELZ: Yes, until not too long ago. They had a silent quota system. At first it wasn't so silent, I don't think. I was not active, of course, then, but later on, I served as an advisor to the university, and I --

MR. LEVIN: But Jews were limited by this silent quota at the medical school, to the law school?

MR. BELZ: It was pretty difficult to get a Jewish boy in



the school. However, even in the early [years] after I was married, in the dental school in the University of Tennessee, boys from New York and from New Jersey, they came to Memphis and they became dentists here in Memphis.

MR. LEVIN: You mean Jewish boys?

MR. BELZ: Jewish boys. Yes, Jewish boys, and I think some doctors too. It made it easier to become a doctor here. The University of Tennessee in those days used to graduate six hundred doctors a year. It was one of the largest schools in the country.

MR. LEVIN: Already in 1932, Mr. Belz, you were already a successful businessman.

MR. BELZ: Well, in 1932, I was a successful businessman even in 1925.

MR. LEVIN: Earlier than that.

MR. BELZ: In 1926 -- in 1926, I bought my father-in-law's store -- a big store. With Nathan Thomas. Of course, you knew Nathan. Yes, and I was together with him till 1940.

MR. LEVIN: Mr. Belz, the political boss of Memphis and Shelby County at the time was E. H. Crump, from the Democratic Party, and who controlled the Democratic machine. Did you support the Democratic Party?

MR. BELZ: In those days I did, yes.

MR. LEVIN: And you made donations to the Crump machine's Democratic Party?

MR. BELZ: We all did that because he ran everything as far



as politics was concerned, and I was young. I wasn't interested in politics -- there was nothing to be interested about.

MR. LEVIN: In the 1930's, 1932, when you were already on the Board of the Baron Hirsch Congregation, and becoming involved in the leadership on the Board and the discussions, did you know of any Jews in Memphis, either from the Baron Hirsch or some of your other business associates, who were politically involved with Mr. Crump?

MR. BELZ: Sure, Will Gerber. Will Gerber was his lawyer, and he was the power behind Mr. Crump as far as getting people to do what he wanted them to do. He also became President [of the Baron Hirsch Congregation]. I followed him as President at Baron Hirsch.

MR. LEVIN: I read the book on the history of the Baron Hirsch Congregation, From Ur to Memphis, by the late Sam Shankman. And I've studied that as a historian. But in addition to Will Gerber, were there any other Jews who were not politicians by elected office, but by appointed office?

MR. BELZ: Well, I can't really -- we had a lot of Jews who were very prominent. Like Hardwig Peres, for example. Israel Peres was a judge. Hardwig Peres was a broker, but [had] a magnificent delivery [as a speaker]. You know, [he was] sought after to give lectures and speeches. And there were many active active Jews. Now, I imagine that





they were very active in the political scene too. Because they were big -- like Newberger was a big cotton man.

MR. LEVIN: Was he a supporter of Crump?

MR. BELZ: Everybody was a supporter of Crump. Crump had no non-supporters at that time. Because anything you needed, you had to go to Crump. And I was in his office quite often. And even when he died, Will Gerber got a group of us.

MR. LEVIN: When Mr. Crump died, in 1950 --

MR. BELZ: Whatever year it was.

MR. LEVIN: 1954, I think.

MR. BELZ: I had to stand in this -- in Crump's home alongside of the coffin for four hours as representative of the Jewish Community for Crump. They had a Catholic and a Protestant and a Jewish [honor guard].

MR. LEVIN: Now, if you recall Memphis of the 1930's was a very racially-segregated city.

MR. BELZ: Yes, I would say that. I mean in those days, the blacks -- they had to have two toilets [one for blacks and a separate one for whites] -- [and blacks] couldn't go in and sit in the restaurant. You know all those things.

MR. LEVIN: They had separate facilities -- they had their own theaters, they had their own --

MR. BELZ: Everything, yeah -- we had a colored theater on Copper Street that we built.

MR. LEVIN: Now, do you feel that the Jews participated in



the way white folks treated blacks, or did Jews treat them better? Did Jews try and advance black rights?

MR. BELZ: Well, the Jews really, as far as I know, never had any problems with the blacks. Because we had them working ~~in~~ in the store, we had them at both stores before I got into factories, and we never had any problems with them really.

MR. LEVIN: I understand that, but the Jewish people in Poland and Europe and Germany had a history of anti-Semitic discrimination.

MR. BELZ: I never went through anything like that here in Memphis.

MR. LEVIN: Why do you think that Jews in Memphis, as a result of their own history, their own experience, did not speak up in defense of the blacks? That they should not be discriminated against?

MR. BELZ: We didn't have any powerful people I don't think, at that time that became involved in the white and black situation; but the white and black situation was -- we always had many, many colored people here, and the majority, you know, like today, is almost fifty-fifty, so I don't think they -- that you might say is that they were the ones that were leading the people to do this or to do that. But there was never too many problems between the white and the black, especially among the Jews. Everybody Jewish had a colored maid. Didn't have no white maids and all that stuff.



Everything that had to be done like that in the servicing [area] always colored. So we got along.

MR. LEVIN: Why did you think in the 1930's and 1940's the Jewish Community, in the 1940's kept a very low profile in Memphis?

MR. BELZ: Why they kept a low profile? Because we didn't have too many Jews in here. We were a very small percentage of the population. Right now even, with all this growth here, we got three thousand families in the city of Memphis. That's a very small community, but we're very prominent, I think, especially considering the amount of people that we have, the amount of souls we have versus what the Goyim [non-Jews] have here.

MR. LEVIN: Now, in the 1930's Memphis began to have a trickle of refugees from Poland -- immigrants from Poland, from Russia, and the Memphis population began to learn of what was happening in Germany, for example.

MR. BELZ: We didn't have any refugees until after 1938.

MR. LEVIN: Until after 1938? That was when the refugees from Germany began to come?

MR. BELZ: Well, not so many from Germany or from Austria, but -- see, they were trying to get them out, and, like I was involved in the Welfare.

MR. LEVIN: In the [Memphis] Jewish Welfare Fund?

MR. BELZ: Yes, and I became President -- for three years I served, 1955, 1956, 1957, but I was involved in -- and I don't remember very many refugees in those days at



all. Not in 1938. That's when I personally brought out close to a hundred people --

MR. LEVIN: When you say you personally brought out [what do you mean]?

MR. BELZ: I signed papers for them that they would never become a ward of the Federal government.

MR. LEVIN: In other words, you accepted the financial responsibility that these refugees would never become financially.

MR. BELZ: That was through the [Memphis Jewish] Welfare Fund.

MR. LEVIN: And you did that through the Jewish Welfare Fund.

MR. BELZ: I just signed the papers that I guaranteed my personal guarantee that I would [accept financial responsibility for them] -- I never had any trouble with them. A lot of them were my family which I brought over. I got out a lot of people.

MR. LEVIN: So, at least a hundred folks ...

MR. BELZ: I say a hundred. Maybe it was sixty or seventy-five. You know, in those days --

MR. LEVIN: Do you know of any other Memphis Jews like yourself who did the same thing?

MR. BELZ: Oh yes, I'm sure that there were others.

MR. LEVIN: Of your own personal knowledge, do you know of others who signed papers like yourself?

MR. BELZ: There was a lawyer. I have to recall his name.





There had been quite a few lawyers in the [Memphis Jewish] Welfare Fund that handled a lot of these things. There were many people, I think, who signed. I don't know of any particular one of the Orthodox Jews that might have done it. I really don't. Sam Margolin was already here then, and he may have -- he might have. And I know Gerber. Of course, he was the President of the Welfare when it was beginning. I'm sure that there were others, but I know it for myself, I owned the building where the office [of the Memphis Jewish Welfare Fund] was -- the 10 North Main Building, see, so they called me up. [Untelligible], he says, "I want you to sign, we gotta get these Jews out of here." I said "Give me the papers, I'll sign them." I didn't pay no attention to names or nothing. I didn't know the names.

MR. LEVIN: Now, if we might focus, Mr. Belz, on November, 1938, what has become known as "Kristalnacht," when a young German Jew tried to assassinate a German Embassy official in Paris, to draw attention to the plight of his parents and 18,000 other Polish Jews who had been expelled from Germany, and Poland refused to accept them; and they were starving and cold on the border between Poland and Germany. And when the Embassy official was wounded and when he died, there was a gigantic riot throughout Germany which devastated the German Jewish Community. There was looting and destroying their stores, and Jews were rounded up and 50,000 Jews were rounded up and placed in concentration camps in Dachau and others, and The Commercial Appeal reported on that



for at least two or three weeks after those events. Now, if I understand correctly, Rabbi [Morris] Taxon was the Rabbi of the Baron Hirsch at the time.

MR. BELZ: I was with him when he died.

MR. LEVIN: So you knew him well?

MR. BELZ: I knew him well, and also Rabbi [Isadore] Goodman.

MR. LEVIN: Who succeeded him.

MR. BELZ: Yes, I was holding Goodman's hand when he passed away.

MR. LEVIN: Now, do you recall, Mr. Belz, when you attended services at the Baron Hirsch [Congregation], did Rabbi Taxon speak out about what was happening in Germany to the German Jews? The German Jewish Community, as a result of Kristalnacht? And what Hitler and his thugs were doing? Did Rabbi Taxon try to educate the Congregation about what was happening, and perhaps that the Memphis Jewish Community needed to do something?

MR. BELZ: Well, that's one thing I cannot really speak about for one reason. Taxon died, I think, in 1939 or 1938, I remember. And the next Rabbi was Rabbi Goodman. He came in 1941. We got him from England in 1941, and I just don't remember exactly -- I'm sure he did. It was part of his duty to see wherever Jews were being, you know [persecuted, harassed] -- But my problem was that I was working all the time. I never, outside of the big holidays, the three days, the first day of minor holidays, I never spent a



lot of time at the Synagogue, and didn't really know what was going on. I worked very hard.

MR. LEVIN: The Rabbi of the Congregation Children of Israel, Temple Israel, as it became known, was Rabbi Ettleson.

MR. BELZ: He officiated at my wedding, but we didn't have a Rabbi at that time.

MR. LEVIN: Do you recall Rabbi Ettleson, perhaps, speaking out in the community about what was happening?

MR. BELZ: I don't remember anything that any of them would call, what you would call, a national -- not a national, but I mean a get-together of all of the various kinds of Jews we got. I don't really recall making a city-wide meeting and bringing these things to the front. I really don't.

MR. LEVIN: Mr. Gerber, Mr. Will Gerber, was very active on the Board of Baron Hirsch, and he became President of Baron Hirsch, and he was a very forceful person. Do you remember him speaking out at Board meetings of the Baron Hirsch Synagogue, or in the Synagogue itself? You mentioned to me he was the one who asked you to sign papers.

MR. BELZ: No, he was not the one. I don't remember who was President. There was one lawyer that was the head of that, and he really took care of it -- Kahn. I think it was Bertrand Kahn -- Bertrand Kahn, and he really -- he did a world of good in those days. Anybody that wanted to try and bring relatives over, they'd go and get him to do it.



And Gerber was busy with politics and everything. I don't remember him -- he was a fine speaker, of course, and he spoke at different times about the situation, as much as I can remember.

MR. LEVIN: Mr. Belz, you personally did marvelous work in signing papers and assuming responsibility for almost a hundred refugees after 1938.

MR. BELZ: Yes, 1937, 1938, whenever all of the Federation people were asked to do this, anybody that they wanted me to sign, I signed.

MR. LEVIN: That's a glorious act to your credit. The issue facing the Memphis Jewish Community after Kristalnacht was to try and find more places of refuge, to try and get more visas for particularly German Jewish refugees who were the ones who were most affected. And Roosevelt at the time, President Roosevelt, refused to do anything to open up visas. He even refused to allow the 900 Jews --

MR. BELZ: The St. Louis.

MR. LEVIN: On the St. Louis. Why do you think that was the case?

MR. BELZ: That's been a puzzle to me all my life. I cannot understand how he could have done that. He wouldn't let them -- I guess that -- how can you explain that, really? It's a thing I've never been able to understand. I've never had any love for him after that. I had no respect for him.





MR. LEVIN: Historians have explained that he was a very astute politician.

MR. BELZ: He was.

MR. LEVIN: And America was still in the depression at the time. There were a lot of people unemployed.

MR. BELZ: A Depression year was 1937. ~~1937~~ We were all in trouble in 1937.

MR. LEVIN: And the trade unions, the labor unions, pressured President Roosevelt not to allow refugees in who would take away jobs.

MR. BELZ: That's right.

MR. LEVIN: Also, President Roosevelt was sensitive to the fact that there was a lot of anti-Semitism in the country. Father Coughlin was a Roman Catholic priest.

MR. BELZ: Yes, I remember that.

MR. LEVIN: But nobody accuses President Roosevelt of being personally anti-Semitic, but he was a politician.

MR. BELZ: And his wife was -- this was on behalf of Israel Bonds that you see this picture here [Mr. Belz points to a picture of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and himself and which occupies a place of pride on his office wall.]. She spent a whole day in Memphis.

MR. LEVIN: She was a great humanitarian.

MR. BELZ: Humanitarian.

MR. LEVIN: Now, Memphis had a number, or Memphis and Ten-



nessee had a number of very prominent people -- Mr. Crump. Mr. Crump was a big city boss, who had direct access to President Roosevelt. He traveled to Washington a number of times socially; he delivered the vote for President Roosevelt; he voted the blacks more than once; he was a supporter of President Roosevelt.

MR. BELZ: We helped him do that.

MR. LEVIN: You helped him do that, and in addition to that, Abe Fortas was an attorney for Mr. [Harold] Ickes, who was the Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Fortas had family in Memphis, came from Memphis.

MR. BELZ: He was born in Memphis. He graduated from Southwestern, which is now Rhodes.

MR. LEVIN: Rhodes College. So, in other words, family members or people could have picked up the phone and spoken to Abe Fortas.

MR. BELZ: Sure.

MR. LEVIN: In addition to that, there was a man -- Tennessee had a Senator -- Senator McKellar.

MR. BELZ: McKellar, sure --

MR. LEVIN: McKellar, who was forty years in the Senate, and was Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a very key committee at the time, and he worked closely politically with Crump. In addition to that, Cordell Hull.

MR. BELZ: Hull, he was a big Senator.



MR. LEVIN: -- was a Tennessee Senator from Nashville, who became Roosevelt's Secretary of State.

MR. BELZ; Secretary of State.

MR. LEVIN: That's correct. Now, today, if the Memphis Jewish Community felt that there was a need of great urgency to speak to --

MR. BELZ: To all the Congressmen and Senators and everybody --

MR. LEVIN: We could access them. There are Jews in Memphis who have supported the Congressmen and the Senators, who could pick up the phone to Washington and say, "I'm flying to Washington."

MR. BELZ: Jack [Belz, son of Philip Belz] does that every day.

MR. LEVIN: "I'm flying to Washington. I need to speak to you," whether it's about Israel, or anti-Semitism. And I don't know if the Senators or the Congressmen would do what we asked them to do, but we could lobby them and educate them, and we would have their ear.

MR. BELZ: We sure would. Now, I don't know who did it in those days. I never heard about it.

MR. LEVIN: Now, in the 1930s, there were also Senator McKellar, Senator Hull, who became Secretary of State Hull. We had Abe Fortas who was the attorney to Ickes, Mr. Crump himself.

MR. BELZ: Who later became serving on the Supreme Court [referring to Abe Fortas].



MR. LEVIN: Supreme Court -- So we had Memphians and Tennesseans to whom the Jewish Community could have had access. And the question that I'm putting to you, Mr. Belz, is do you know of any Jews, like Mr. Gerber for example, who spoke to Mr. Crump and said, "Mr. Crump, we need to do something for German Jews?"

MR. BELZ: I don't know. I really don't. Whatever was -- we called him sometimes and we had a few meetings. That was discussed, but not to the capacity of anything like what we have now. It was not an organization in Memphis like -- we'd want to do something. We'd call a bunch of guys together that all of them pretty well know the Senator, know the Congressman; and they know who to call. Jack knows every one of them.

MR. LEVIN: Mr. Belz, members of your family have been very instrumental on behalf of Soviet Jewry. In organizing public protest rallies, and a Run and a March for Soviet Rally -- two or three of them in the last three or four years. Why do you think, in your opinion, after November, 1938, when the Memphis Jewish Community read the headlines in The Commercial Appeal, of how brutalized the German Jewish Community was, particularly since there were many German Jews of German origin in Memphis, why didn't they organize protest rallies?

MR. BELZ: I couldn't explain that. We had a lot of German Jews. They were the richest people here in Memphis. All of the Orthodox Jews were peddlers, little grocery





stores and dry goods stores. But the German Jews had big businesses.

MR. LEVIN: What's your feeling, Mr. Belz, why they didn't do things like this [organized protest rallies and have meetings to aid the German Jewish Community]?

MR. BELZ: My feeling is that they they were not astute in handling things like that. I don't think that they thought about the fact that such a small community that they had any power. I imagine, that's the only reason I could give. And I don't know -- but not today. Something comes up [snapping his fingers] -- right down [i.e., we respond immediately].

MR. LEVIN: Could it be that Jews at that time didn't care what happened?

MR. BELZ: No, it wasn't that I don't think.

MR. LEVIN: They did care?

MR. BELZ: I think they did care. Certainly, because self-evident with me, that I tried to get everybody out of -- all my family I got out, every one that was living, I got out.

MR. LEVIN: Could it be that the Jewish Community was scared that if they made too many waves, that they might be discriminated against and treated like the black people?

MR. BELZ: I don't think so.

MR. LEVIN: You don't think that they were scared?

MR. BELZ: No, no, I don't think they were scared. I just



think they were not organized properly. That's always what I think. It was not an organized Congregation, you know, that had political knowledge as to what to do, where to go. I know they had sympathy. That they had. But I just don't think they had the effort that it takes to do these kind of things. Because I just don't remember anything like that coming to pass.

MR. LEVIN: As a member of the Jewish Welfare Fund, through which you were approached to sign papers to assume responsibility for refugees, do you recall the Board of the Welfare Fund discussing these issues. I think Dr. Levy was the President at the time.

MR. BELZ: Yes, Dr. Victor Levy [he means Dr. Louis Levy] was at that time. He [Dr. Levy] may have, but the only thing is when Israel came into the picture, in 1948, that changed a hell of a lot of things. Then we began to see and pay attention to what was taking place with the Jews all over. In those other days, in the 1930s, we knew what was going on after the papers printed it. We didn't have any television; we didn't have -- radio was in its early stages in those days. Although in 1937 already, everybody had a radio, but it was a different life.

MR. LEVIN: Do you recall, Mr. Belz, amongst the Jews in the Memphis Community, did they talk about -- did they discuss amongst themselves what was happening to the German Jewish Community?



MR. BELZ: Oh sure, we knew what was happening, but didn't seem to be able to do a damn thing about it.

MR. LEVIN: In other words, you knew what was happening, but you felt that we weren't organized enough--

MR. BELZ: But we wasn't organized enough. Another thing, we didn't have an idea that it was as terrible as it was. The degree of what was taking place, I don't think, sunk in --

MR. LEVIN: You mean even in 1938, 1939?

MR. BELZ: In '38, 1939, I don't think the degree of what was taking place really got into everybody's mind how bad it really was.

MR. LEVIN: When you say "went into their minds how badly it was," they read The Commercial Appeal, I assume?

MR. BELZ: And what we did was to get the Jews out that we possibly could, and that was the way -- I know that was the way that I reacted. I got all my relatives out, every one of them.

MR. LEVIN: That was 70 or 80 people? And they arrived in Memphis?

MR. BELZ: Some of them. Some in Memphis.

MR. LEVIN: In 1937, 1938?

MR. BELZ: In '38, they're still here. I mean they're like Bertel Salzburg was her name, and I brought them in 1938. I brought Jack Weil and his family. You know them, Jack Weil; and Janet [Weil], of course, was the American.



But Jack and his brother, Eli, [who] is a doctor in San Francisco in the Kaiser Institute.

MR. LEVIN: That was in 1937, 1938?

MR. BELZ: That was in 1938 I brought them out. I brought them out. Then I brought Bertel's brothers out, three brothers. One of your good members too, Morris Wachter. I brought him here.

MR. LEVIN: Morris Wagner?

MR. BELZ: Wachter. Wachter. He's now, I think he's at the Conservative [Synagogue]. Yes, he is a Conservative. Morris Wachter. I helped quite a few of the -- he just married my niece. I don't know whether to call her a niece or not. Philip Rubinstein. I brought members of his family out. I remember that much. There are so many of them that I don't --

MR. LEVIN: And this was in 1937, 1938, 1939?

MR. BELZ: I think so, 1938 or 1940, 1941, I don't know. I don't know how in the hell they could get out

[Turn tape over at this point.]

MR. LEVIN: Sure. Mr. Belz, we're talking about 1937, 1938, 1939, and I'm trying to get a feeling for the climate. I don't mean the physical climate. As a historian, I'm trying to get a feeling for the climate in Memphis -- not the weather, but the climate amongst the Jewish Community in the Depression years, with refugees, with knowledge of what was happening in Germany; with the racial situation in Memphis, segregated. Did the Jews, perhaps, feel that if they





could do that to the black folks here, if we are too vociferous and vocal and talk up, they can turn on us?

MR. BELZ: I never had a feeling like that, and it just seems like to me - see, I was way out in South Memphis. I wasn't active in no politics. I didn't have my mind on politics. I was a businessman. And I had no trouble with blacks or whites.

MR. LEVIN: The important thing though, Mr. Belz, you were a very concerned and involved member of the Jewish Community.

MR. BELZ: Yes, I was. But I didn't have the time to really -- because I didn't have the capability of doing it. See, because I was not involved in any kind of political thing.

MR. LEVIN: The late Dr. Wax told me that in the 1960's, when he was active in the civil rights movement, prominent members of his Congregation and Board members were very unhappy with his participation. They felt that it was making the Jewish Community too visible, too prominent.

MR. BELZ: Yeah, that was another thing -- he was big stuff and all. I think he might've marched even down there [Selma, Alabama, in the Civil Rights marches] you know, the same thing happened to the one that died.

MR. LEVIN: Rabbi [Ari] Becker [of the Beth Sholom (Conservative) Congregation]. Do you think that the issue of the Jewish Community being too visible in the 1930s was --



MR. BELZ: No, they weren't too visible in the 1930s, because there wasn't any kind of happenings as far as black and white was concerned.

MR. LEVIN: But visibility in terms of the Jewish Community, what was happening overseas?

MR. BELZ: Well, it's pretty hard to explain this. We were so few Jews of any prominence, that had the wherewithal to help and do things, that that's why it hasn't impressed me more. You know, I would try to do everything I could. I remember when, for example, in 1948, when we really went into the first drive for Israel. Gerber called me out -- he was President of the Congregation, and Gerber grabbed me and said, "Come on out with me. I need to talk to you for a minute." So he says, you know we've got to raise a lot more money than what we'd been raising for local things. Now it's a national thing, and we've got to get money for Israel. And he said, "I want to get a donation from you." This was the second day of Sukkos [Feast of Tabernacles - Jewish religious holiday], and I said, "Well, how much money do you want?" And he says, "I'll be happy with \$500." So I said, "\$500? I'll tell you what. I'll give you three times \$500." I thought his face was going to change out. I said, "I may not be able to pay it as fast as [you might like], but before the year's out, I'll give you \$1,500." He never got over that, I don't think.

MR. LEVIN: Mr. Belz, if we could just go back to one final



part of the interview that I'd like to explore with you. And that was in 1938. When The Commercial Appeal for four or five days publicized a mass protest rally by the citizens of Memphis to protest what had happened on Kristalnacht in Germany, do you remember that rally at all?

MR. BELZ: I do not. That's what puzzles me. I know I attended it, but I don't remember it.

MR. LEVIN: You remember attending the rally?

MR. BELZ: I think so. There's nothing that was a rally for Jewish causes that I didn't attend. Unless I was out of town or involved in some business that I just couldn't. But I swear I do not remember a gathering of any kind about Kristalnacht. It puzzles me, because there was nothing that went on here that I didn't in those days -- I didn't have the time as a young man. I was so busy, involved in so many things in business. I had two furniture factories already in 1938; and I had 200 working in this one; and 150 working in another one. I was in the store with Nathan Thomas, and then I had a liquor store at Main and Madison.

MR. LEVIN: So you had your hands full?

MR. BELZ: In fact, my daddy said [Yiddish phrase] -- I was trying to do it with one [meaning: I couldn't be everywhere at once.]

MR. LEVIN: This mass protest rally that Bishop Maxon organized. It seems that the Jewish Community was not very involved in this.

MR. BELZ: That's what I'm trying to say. I swear to G-d,



I can't remember it. I just cannot remember it! Maybe we didn't know too much -- and you know, television -- today you're living in a different world as far as knowledge of what takes place in other places.

MR. LEVIN: Well, The Commercial Appeal began to write about it [the Memphis Protest Rally about the treatment of Jews in Germany] on its front page on Wednesday, November the 16th, I believe it was. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Sunday -- five consecutive days -- and then The Hebrew Watchman on November the 17th. Thursday, November the 17th had a full-page ad about this mass protest rally and urged the Jewish Community to participate. So, but again, it seems to me from your recollection that not too many Jews attended.

MR. BELZ: I just -- I don't know. I don't remember. I can't understand why I didn't, if I didn't. But it didn't make that much of an impression on me as to what took place.

MR. LEVIN: Mr. Belz, if it's any consolation to you, I've spoken with a number of other Memphians: Judge Irving Strauch; I've spoken to Mr. Aaron Brenner. And neither of them remembers that as well.

MR. BELZ: I don't either. I just cannot. Now, Aaron Brenner is a German Jew, you know. And he was very active in the Welfare Fund too, and he's been very active in B'nai Brith. He's not an Orthodox Jew. He wasn't involved the way I was involved. But we were very good





friends. Of course, Strauch too. Strauch is Orthodox. He don't know what he is, I don't think. But he's a nice guy. He really is. And a smart boy too.

MR. LEVIN: Mr. Belz, that's why I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you. Because in speaking with a cross-section of people, the historian can build up a picture of what happened. If Mr. Brenner, who moved in a different sphere than you did; and Mr. Strauch, who moved in a different sphere than you did; and you. And neither of you remembers or recollects this, then clearly it was not an issue that agitated the Memphis Jewish Community at that time.

MR. BELZ: I was going to say -- that those who should have had charge of the thing did not get the message to the people, is what I think. Now, I always read The Hebrew Watchman. I didn't read the Memphis papers all the time. I didn't have time to fool with that. You know, I was a young guy, and I was busy with three children already, and I had to make a living.

MR. LEVIN: Temple Israel were very gracious to give me access to the minutes of their Board meetings. And in the minutes of the Board meeting in December, 1938, Rabbi Ettelson read into the minutes a letter that he and Rabbi Taxon, who was still alive at the time --

MR. BELZ: In '38 yes, he was still alive.

MR. LEVIN: -- had written to Bishop Maxon on behalf of the Jewish Community thanking the Bishop, who was an Episcopalian Bishop, for taking the initiative in organizing



this mass community meeting. So it seems that Rabbi Ettelson and Rabbi Taxon did know about the meeting; did speak to their Congregations about it, and was in The Hebrew Watchman a full-page ad. And yet, with that, the Memphis Jewish Community does not seem to have been [involved with it] or remember that--or knowledgeable about it.

MR. BELZ: You know, there were not enough Jews, Sabbath Jews that went to Shul [Synagogue Services] on Shabbos [Sabbath]. Every one of them had stores and businesses, and they were in their businesses on Shabbos, and if you made a message like that on a Saturday, it didn't get to too many people.

MR. LEVIN: My understanding is that at that time, most of the people came to services on Friday night.

MR. BELZ: Yes, we used to have nice Friday night services because they had closed the stores already.

MR. LEVIN: And that's when Rabbi Taxon addressed the Congregation. And, of course, in Temple Israel, that's when Rabbi Ettelson addressed the Congregation.

MR. BELZ: Right, but for the life of me, I cannot remember that.

MR. LEVIN: And that's okay, Mr. Belz, and I appreciate that, because neither could Judge Strauch and neither could Mr. Brenner either. And it seems to me that --

MR. BELZ: That's funny. It's really peculiar. It should have made an impression, because I used to go to everything I had time to go. You know, we did have in the



State of Tennessee Abba Eban [representative of the State of Israel] and had a big meeting for the whole state in Memphis, Tennessee. There were thousands of people there, and I was in charge. I had to introduce Abba Eban to the community. I think they said it was eight or ten thousand people there then. But that's the only big one that I really know about. That I can remember.

MR. LEVIN: But you did seem to remember, Mr. Belz, the journey of the St. Louis.

MR. BELZ: Oh, yeah. That made such an impression in those days. It just puzzles me that how in the devil I didn't remember that.

MR. LEVIN: But you do remember the St. Louis?

MR. BELZ: Oh, I remember that. We had two papers in those days, and I remember headlines in The Commercial Appeal, as well as the Press-Scimitar, and all that. That was talked about with an understanding.

MR. LEVIN: Was there any discussion at the time amongst you and your friends about time to do anything to get visas for those refugees?

MR. BELZ: I think that there were, but we didn't have the influence, and I'm pretty sure that Gerber was well alive then, and he had a big mouth, and he could speak and he was a guy that could really raise hell.

MR. LEVIN: And he could have gone to Mr. Crump?

MR. BELZ: Oh, hell. Mr. Crump could have gone to him. I mean, that's how close that was.



MR. LEVIN: And there were other Jews in the community who could have contacted Senator McKellar or Abe Fortas?

MR. BELZ: Abe Fortas, he could have gone to the President. No, they could have gotten to anybody they wanted to get. I couldn't have. I mean, I wasn't like Jack. Today, Jack can call anybody in Washington.

MR. LEVIN: Who were the Jews at that time who were like Jack today, who could have done that had they chosen to?

MR. BELZ: Now, that's another one that I can't answer. I don't know who it was that had so much to do. Well, after Gerber died, we really didn't have a front -- what I would call a front-man to do things like that. And Gerber was such a -- oh, he was mean as hell. I was eight years President of Baron Hirsch, and I had so much trouble with him. [Yiddish expression: he begrudged me.] He gave me a hard time. But I followed him in the Presidency, and he took the stand that Solomon took -- I mean that King David did with Solomon, that he says "I'm not a builder," and he says that now we have to turn over the big Synagogue to --

MR. LEVIN: That happened at a banquet at the Baron Hirsch Synagogue. I read about that. But, again, to come back to the journey of the St. Louis. To the best of your knowledge, there were no efforts made to contact Senator McKellar or Cordell Hull or Abe Fortas or Mr. Crump, all of





whom could have talked to Mr. Roosevelt, who could have had direct access.

MR. BELZ: I would say that nobody did it. Of course, I don't know that. If I did, I would have known if somebody would have done it. I just can't remember if anybody did, and it certainly wasn't publicized that they did, so I don't know who could have done it. Otherwise, people that fool with politics. I just was not a politician.

MR. LEVIN: I appreciate that, Mr. Belz. Thank you for your time, and you've been most helpful to me and to future historians who will access this [interview] in the Brister Library at the Memphis State University, and be able to get a feeling for what the Memphis Jewish Community was like in the 1930s. Thank you.

MR. BELZ: Thank you!















