

## EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

On the basis of conversations with numerous Jewish employees, I would conclude that there is little evidence of discrimination at this time either with respect to finding or holding a job. They report having encountered no difficulties in obtaining employment for which they were qualified. To be more precise, there is no perceptible discrimination on the part of the German public employment exchanges, government agencies, and private employers. Physicians and dentists have also not found unusual difficulties in establishing their practices which are built up largely of non-Jewish patients. The small size of the Jewish community no doubt tends to reduce the competitive element in all fields of economic activity.

Outside of Berlin, where at present the situation is favorable, there are occasional reports of discrimination in the employment of Jews. It is reported that some job applicants have been turned down by the employer who advances as his reason the lack of job openings. In some such instances, the applicant has reason to believe that his religion rather than the absence of an opening accounts for his failure to obtain employment. In view of the deep-rooted anti-Semitism in Germany, the suspicion may not be without grounds.

It appears that Jewish persons engaged in business are at a distinct disadvantage. One of the principal difficulties stems from the "Aryanization" practices during the Nazi regime which forced Jewish merchants out of business. As a result, Jewish merchants have not yet been able to build up the necessary contacts and channels maintained by non-Jewish merchants in business.

Consequently, Jewish business men have found it difficult to obtain allocations of merchandise from domestic manufacturers as well as an appropriate share of imported material. Non-Jewish German business men and their trade associations are undoubtedly aware that this practice has an adverse effect on Jewish merchants, and that this handicap is seriously retarding the Jewish merchants in their attempt to gain a foothold in the German economy. It is not to the credit of these business men and trade associations that they have failed to provide some remedy for this inequality of opportunity.