Break Ground for New Hillel Center — Stark Sees Success

Numerous civic leaders, including Abe Stark, the President of the City Council of New York, were present at the ground-breaking ceremonies of the Brooklyn College Hillel Foundation, on Sunday, December 12, 1954.

The ceremonies, taking place yesterday on the parking lot at Germania Place and Campus Road, were witnessed by a huge crowd of people.

Braves Cold

Despite the extreme cold the guest speakers had no difficulty warming up to the audience who weathered the frigid temperatures for two hours in order to witness the program.

Among the speakers attending were Dr. Norman Frimer, Metropolitan Regional Director of the Hillel Foundation; Dr. Francis P. Kilcroe, Dean of Admissions at Brooklyn College; William I. Siegel, president of the Metropolitan Council of B'nai B'rith; Dr. Arthur J. Lelyveld, National Director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations; and Gil Kollin, President of Hillel Student Council at Brooklyn College.

Abe Stark, the main speaker, stressed the point of the extension of voluntary, on-campus, religious programs at American Colleges as a means of promoting the ethical, moral, and cultural standards of college students. He saw these programs as a potent weapon in the campaign to strengthen and foster our nation's democratic freedoms.

Stark "Not Going to Stop"

Stark felt confident of the future success of the drive to raise funds for the new building.

"We're not going to stop until the building is ready," he asserted.

The City Council President also noted the interfaith nature of the proposed building:

"Almost any student grounded in the religious principles of his own faith can be taught to respect not only his own religion, but that of his fellow man. Through lectures and interdenominational study groups, the ideals of interfaith understanding can be properly developed right on the college campus in order to train the future leaders of our society."

As chairman of the Brooklyn College Hillel Building Committee Stark called upon the students of the college, and the general public as well, to support the campaign to raise funds for the new building which will cost $350,000 and will be used by 13,000 students of all races and faiths.

Cantor David Kusevitsky, of the Temple Emanuel, Boro Park, gave a number of vocal selections. He was accompanied on the organ, which was set up at the foot of the speaker's stand.

Numerous congratulatory telegrams were read to the audience after which the Council President read forth the contributions of the large group of businessmen who had attended. Many of the sums donated were well over the thousand dollar mark. Some subscribers even doubled their previously quoted donations.

There was a patriotic as well as a Jewish theme to the meeting. Bunting and flags decked the stands. Large American flags were hung along the wire fence which supported them.

A large steam shovel dominated the scene during the actual ground-breaking.

Messages of support and cooperation were sent to the group by Mayor Wagner and Borough President Cashmore, who are Honorary Chairmen of the Hillel Building Campaign Committee.

(Continued from page One)