

BROTHERHOOD WEEK WILL BE OBSERVED BY JOINT MEETING

Protestants, Catholics and Jews Here to At- tend Service

February 19-26 has been set aside for the annual observance of Brotherhood Week. It has been announced by Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, under whose auspices the observance will be held in over 2,000 communities throughout the country. Dr. Clinchy said the theme of this year's observance will be "Democracy and Freedom," pointing out that Brotherhood Week occurs within the period which President Roosevelt has designated for commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the signing and ratification of the Constitution.

Plans for a local observance of Brotherhood Week are being made in Bath. All faiths are to unite in accordance with the call issued by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, in sponsoring a mass meeting at the local high school auditorium, Sunday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m. Associated in this effort with the Bath Ministers' Association, composed of Protestant ministers, are Rev. Timothy C. Maney, Rev. David P. Surette, of St. Mary's Roman Catholic church, and Rev. Abraham May of the local Synagogue. Invitations have been extended to the pastors of the various religious bodies in Bath to be seated on the platform during the meeting and to have their people attend this meeting. It is hoped that a real demonstration of the union and solidarity of the various religious faiths in their opposition to the persecution of religious minorities will be shown by a large attendance.

The sponsoring group considers itself fortunate in having secured as speaker for the occasion Rev. Ewart Edmund Turner, Lowell, Mass., pastor for four years, 1930-34, of the American church in Berlin, Germany, who keeps in touch with the religious forces of Germany through annual visits to that country.

A message sent by the organization to Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders throughout the country urges that Brotherhood Week be devoted to "a new study of the Bill of Rights and its implications for a free America." In suggesting an emphasis upon the principles of democracy in this year's observance, the message, says:

"Since the liberties guaranteed to every citizen of the United States by the Constitution are being decried and the very principles upon which democracy is founded are flouted and despised in many parts of the world today, there is urgent need for clear thinking and vigorous action on the part of those who believe in democracy and want to maintain it for themselves and their children. We need to

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think through afresh some of the things we have long taken for granted. We need a new appreciation of the value of privileges which we have accepted thoughtlessly as our inherent rights.

"Moreover, we need to face the fact that the threats directed against human liberties menace, not Jews merely, nor Jews and Catholics, but Protestants, Catholics and Jews. Here all groups have a common cause and must stand together. Thoughtful citizens of all faiths are determined that America shall be kept free from the suicidal animosities that are disfiguring the common life in other parts of the world today and that those principles of justice, amity and understanding which the fathers of the republic advocated shall be maintained as the true American tradition."

The message also urges united action by all faiths against atheism and materialism and against "every philosophy that denies a spiritual interpretation of life." "Americans must determine to resist all totalitarianisms and foreign propaganda of hatred and strife," it is declared. "The American tradition of civil rights and liberty of conscience form a priceless heritage. Both Communism and Fascism are inimical to the family concept of brotherhood among Protestants, Catholics and Jews. A public opinion sustaining religious democracy must be vigorously maintained in the United States."