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Jewish Congress

Asks That Saxbe

Resign From Post

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WASHINGTON, April 5—The chairman of the national governing council of the American Jewish Congress said today that Attorney General William B. Saxbe should either resign or be removed from office by the President because of comments Mr. Saxbe made Wednesday regarding "the Jewish intellectual."

"Mr. Saxbe has disqualified himself for public office and particularly for the sensitive post of the Attorney General," Howard M. Squadron, the chairman, said in a statement issued in New York. "He is guilty of group libel, repeating an old and discredited calumny against the Jewish community."

Mr. Saxbe made his comments in the course of discussing Justice Department plans to study the question of revising or perhaps doing away with the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations.

Mr. Saxbe said that in the McCarthy era there was great distrust of the intellectual.

"One of the changes that's come about is because of the Jewish intellectual, who was in those days very enamored of the Communist party," he went on. He said that "Communism has in many ways" lost its attractiveness to them.

Last night, Mr. Saxbe — whose remarks were criticized Wednesday and yesterday by leaders of three other Jewish organizations as well as by two members of Congress, Representatives Robert F. Drinan, Democrat of Massachusetts, and Elizabeth Holtzman, Democrat of Brooklyn — issued what a Justice Department spokesman described as a clarification.

He said that "there was a great deal of anti-Semitism in the Communist witch-hunts" of the nineteen-forties and fifties and that "much of it was directed at some highly visible Jewish intellectuals who were considered sympathetic to Russia."

"Because of the Soviet posture toward issues of importance to Jews," he said, "this is no longer the case today and I believe this change can best be seen by the totally different type of individual involved in the terrorist groups now operating."

Mr. Squadron suggested that he considered the clarification unsatisfactory, saying "Mr. Saxbe's statement and the 'clarification' that followed demonstrate a way of thinking that classifies people by ethnic stereotype."

Communist Leader Murdered