

# AUDIENCE DISBELIEVING

## Account of Lot of Soviet Jews Under Stalin Stirs Questions

Mr. Suller faced a disbelieving audience last night when he sought to minimize the persecution of Soviet Jews under Stalin.

Speaking at a Communist-sponsored meeting at the Cornish Arms Hotel, 311 West Twenty-third Street, Mr. Suller

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emphasized the positive in the position of Soviet Jews.

He told of plans to revive Yiddish cultural institutions in the Soviet Union. He assured his audience of 400 persons that most Yiddish writers had not been imprisoned and that many of those missing had died natural deaths or had died in World War II.

In the question period, person after person rose to ask why he had painted such a rosy picture and why he had not dealt more fully with the murder and imprisonment of Yiddish cultural figures and with failure of the Soviet press to acknowledge the persecution of Jews.

In answering these and other questions, Mr. Suller disclaimed any desire to minimize the situation. All Yiddish culture in the Soviet Union was destroyed in 1948, he emphasized. The Soviet Union in the post-war Stalin period had been a lawless state in which the security police had ruled the Government, he said.

Prodded by the questions, he criticized Yekaterina A. Furtseva, alternate member of the Soviet Communist party Presidium, for her ignorance of Soviet Jews and their wishes. He agreed it was proper to criticize Pravda, Soviet party organ, for having omitted a reference to the murder of Yiddish writers when it reprinted an article by Eugene Dennis, secretary of the American Communist party, last month.

Mr. Suller conceded that there was anti-Semitic feeling in the Soviet Union. He ascribed it to Nazi propaganda in World War II and to alleged resentment of non-Jews over what Mr. Suller called preferential evacuation of Jews from areas threatened by Nazi Armies during that war.