

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE at Virtual AJ



“We do not want him, because he is a JEW!”

The Montreal Interns’ Strike of 1934

Presented by...Dr. Edward C. Halperin

Sunday, October 24, 2021 ✦ 7:00 p.m.



Dr. Edward C. Halperin

Speeches by modern-day White supremacists often include such statements such as “Jews will not replace us.” Where did this slogan originate? In 1934, medical interns at Montreal's Roman Catholic hospitals went on strike because they alleged that a Jew “replaced” a Roman Catholic French Canadian. In 1934, Montreal's Hôpital Notre-Dame (HND), a teaching hospital of the Université de Montréal (UM) medical school, hired a French-speaking Jewish graduate of UM, Samuel Rabinovitch. The prospective interns at HND demanded that Rabinovitch be fired, stating, “We do not want him because he is a Jew.” On June 14 & 15, 1934, HND's interns went on strike to prevent Rabinovitch from taking up his duties. The strike spread to multiple hospitals in Montreal. A Jewish Urology trainee at the Hôtel Dieu hospital, Abram Stilman, was also targeted. Rabinovitch resigned in order to bring the strike to an end. The strike prompted the creation of Jewish hospitals and medical schools in the USA and Canada to ensure the education of Jewish physicians.

Edward C. Halperin received a BS in Economics from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, MA from Duke University, and MD from Yale University. He was a medical intern at Stanford University Medical Center and a resident at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Halperin has served as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Duke University, Vice Dean of Duke Medical School, Dean and Ford Foundation Professor at the School of Medicine of the University of Louisville, and is currently Chancellor and CEO of New York Medical College of the Touro College and University System.

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