

+ Dec. 7-1957

## MORRIS CUKOR, 88, EX-CITY AIDE, DIES

Retired Lawyer Had Been  
Head of Civil Service Unit  
Here—Aided Hungarians

Morris Cukor, a lawyer and a former president of the Municipal Civil Service Commission, died yesterday at the home of a niece, Mrs. Elsie Lipton, in Beverly Hills, Calif. His age was 88.

Mr. Cukor, who had lived at the Chalfonte Hotel, 200 West Seventieth Street, went to California in August, 1956, to visit Mrs. Lipton and his nephew, George Cukor, Hollywood motion picture director.

Coming to this country from Hungary as a youth in 1884, Mr. Cukor settled on the Lower East Side and became active in Democratic politics. He served as president of the Civil Service Commission for three years during the administration of the late Mayor John F. Hylan. He resigned in 1921.

During World War I, Mr. Cukor was a legal adviser of the United States Selective Service System and an associate member of the city's draft board.

### Active in Masonic Work

Mr. Cukor was widely known for his work on behalf of the Hungarian people. Before World War I he had represented the Hungarian embassy in this country. His major interests included the Masons, Tammany Hall and Hungarian-American societies.

In a New York Times interview in 1950, on his sixtieth anniversary as a practicing lawyer—his office was at 261 Broadway—Mr. Cukor told of having spoken on a Voice of America broadcast to Hungary.

Instead of denouncing Communists, he said, he told his people about America and its opportunities. He told of having obtained a free education in the public schools and of his graduation from New York University Law School with honors. He was admitted to the bar while still studying law on Feb. 13, 1890.

Mr. Cukor related also in his broadcast how in 1918 the Attorney General of the United States threatened to intern the pastors of Hungarian Reform churches in this country as enemy aliens. With a delegation of ministers, he went to Washington and obtained the personal assurance of the late President Woodrow Wilson that no such action would be taken.

### Led War Bond Drive

While Hungary was an enemy nation in World War II, Mr. Cukor was chairman of the Hungarian section of a war bond campaign in which his committee raised \$2,000,000 in forty-eight hours. He also persuaded the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt to name a liberty ship the Louis Kossuth, after the Hungarian patriot, as



The New York Times  
Morris Cukor

a token of recognition of the Hungarian people.

Mr. Cukor had served at various times as counsel to the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, the United Hungarian Reform churches and several Hungarian banks and industrial corporations. He had been a member of the law committee and corresponding secretary of Tammany Hall and a delegate to the 1908 and 1912 Democratic National Conventions. He was a past master of Ehlers Lodge of Masons.