

CD-1114 Transcription

WINS radio commentaries. 1992.

ANNOUNCER: WINS news time 7:36, and now, here's a commentary by the Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

MARC TANENBAUM: Several weeks ago, I was invited to lecture at Tulane University in New Orleans. The subject was Jewish-Christian relations, but the anxieties and concerns were focused on the race of David Duke for governor of Louisiana. To most of the Louisianans with whom I spoke, both Republican and Democratic, they were dumbfounded by how Duke was able to travel this far politically. Practically everyone had pictures in their heads of Duke, Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan parading in a hood before burning crosses. Jews, among other Louisianans, saw Duke wearing swastikas, and making fiery speeches advocating Nazi-Aryan supremacy. There is clearly much widespread discontent over the economy and unemployment. And Duke was exploiting this resentment systematically. He's had a facelift, changed his hair, and cleaned up his racial and anti-Semitic language. So did the Nazis use euphemisms. If ever there was an issue in which Americans, [01:00] black and white, Christian and Jew, need to mobilize, it is to contain David Duke before his sickness becomes an epidemic. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary.

(break in audio)

ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, now a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:The Louisiana governor's election suddenly raised, for me, a nightmarish fantasy. Imagine now, a national debate between David Duke and Dr. Leonard Jeffries. Duke launches into his Nazi white racial superiority mythology, he declares, again, that blacks and Jews are a threat to his white Christian America. And Duke proposes an American apartheid, which would confine blacks and Jews separately to regional homelands. Jeffries responds with a remarkable mirror image of Duke's hatreds and racisms. Blacks are racially superior to whites, he declares, and are justified in hating white society. There is a conspiracy of Jews and Italians to suppress blacks who have, like David Duke, [02:00] a right to be anti-Semitic, and anti-white. This is a wild absurd scenario, but it is happening in America today, where our effective political, cultural, and religious leaders, who will insist that neither Duke nor Jeffries are mainstream America. Maybe we need the credibility of a Magic Johnson to establish that neither racist Duke nor Jeffries are what America is meant to be. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed not necessarily the views of WINS. WINS news time is 7:37.

(break in audio)

ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, now a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:Thanksgiving, which we observe is Thursday, has a message about the things that should really count in our lives. Our pilgrim ancestors knew that the meaningful rituals of Thanksgiving were more than turkey and stuffing. They identified with the ancient Israelites in the Bible, who offered thanks to God for the daily blessings of life and good health, supreme signs of their humanity. [03:00] The profits ranked in gratitude that is taking for granted daily gifts of food, clothing, and shelter, and taking other people for granted as a supreme sin. That decline in elemental gratitude is an asset that eats away at all human relationships. And these difficult days, when domestic economy is beginning to hurt many average Americans, and overseas hunger and poverty continue, Thanksgiving should be a time for the rebirth of plain old-fashioned gratitude for the everyday gifts of life. It is a special time for mutual support and caring for one another in each neighborhood of the nation. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

(break in audio)

ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, now a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:On this eave of Hanukkah, the Festival of Light, the Jewish people have lost one of its most brilliant lights. He is Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, chancellor emeritus of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the [Pern?] Institution [04:00] of Conservative Judaism. Dr. Finkelstein was a towering religious giant, who led millions of American Jews toward a renewal of a moral and religious values of Judaism. Completely traditional in its religious observances, he was, at the same time, at home in the academic and cultural worlds. Dr. Finkelstein's scholarly studies on the Pharisees, among his many other works, transformed the mentalities of both Jews and Christians. Dr. Finkelstein was consulted frequently by presidents, Supreme Court justices, and Christian scholars. At age 96, it is symbolic that Rabbi...

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ANNOUNCER:Now, here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:The release of the hostages from Lebanon lights up our world, especially during these Hanukkah and Christmas

holidays. The hostages prevailed there for several years of brutal treatment and torture, and that is a statement of their character, their will to live, and their faith. But I have to say that my relief over their final release is intertwined with strong feelings of outrage and anger. All of the hostages were [05:00] severely brutalized and chained to their beds for years. But Joseph Ciccipio, Alann Steen, and Thomas Sutherland now report to the world that they were beaten and kicked in their heads. With all of the best medical care they can get, they will now suffer permanent brain damage. This may not be the moment, but very soon, our government must see to it that the savages who brutalized all of the innocent hostages are held strictly accountable for their anti-human actions. And Iran, Libya, and Syria must also be given the clear message that the world will not tolerate their hostage barbarism any longer. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

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(break in audio)

ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:For good and serious reasons, the majority of the American people are deeply concerned over the declining economic conditions in our country. It is evident that the

problems of economic growth and unemployment will dominate the coming election year. [06:00] But what still needs to be fully confronted is the social and cultural fallout of the recession. The intensified competition for jobs and income is leading racial and ethnic groups to blame each other, rather than the politicians who allow such deterioration to take place. In this pressure cooker, we now find David Duke and Pat Buchanan exploiting hostility between blacks, Hispanics, Jews, Koreans, and others, for their own political gains. Simple wisdom calls for all Americans to recognize that the recession is their real enemy. They should not allow themselves to be manipulated as scapegoats against each other, for that is the way of self-destruction, not survival. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:When I was a child, I lived in Baltimore, Maryland. My parents were devout Orthodox Jews, who owned a small grocery store in a poor working-class neighborhood. [07:00] All of us Irish, Italians, blacks, and Jews, had suffered desperately together through the Depression. Now, the afternoon of a Christmas Day in the 1930s, I found my mother

packing groceries into baskets, and tying them with red and green ribbons. I asked her what she was doing, and she answered that she had just found out that several of our Christian neighbors did not have money did not have money to buy food for a Christmas dinner. "It is Christmas," my mother said, "and it would be terrible if our neighbors would go hungry on their holiday." And this orthodox Jewish woman and her children went through the neighborhood handing out Christmas baskets as if they were Santa Claus. I often think of that lovely moment and wonder why this spirit of people caring spontaneously for other people prevails mainly from December to January, and why not as much from January to December.

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ANNOUNCER:-- is 7:36, now a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:In ancient cultures, New Year's Day was a ritual drama for purifying [08:00] the lives of the individual and the group. According to the late great scholar [Mercy Aleotti?], time was seen as wearing out the human being and society by all of the mistakes and sins that piled up during the past year. The old year had degenerated into decay and chaos, and had to be destroyed. Noisemakers and wild revelries were part of a pagan purification ritual that symbolically drove out the sins and the evils of the past year. Once the old

year and its birth were expelled, the individual and the community could be renewed or reborn. The year 1991 was a year of much violence, hunger, and unemployment, even as it was a time of expanding democracy and freedom. Let's hope that the new year, 1992, will drive out the destructive tendencies of the past difficult year. And let the new year be a time of economic growth, security, and peace for everyone. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

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ANNOUNCER: WINS news time 7:36, now here's [09:00] a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM: Cardinal John O'Connor's current visit to the Middle East is primarily devoted to a survey of the relief needs of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. But it is known that Pope John Paul II has also asked the cardinal to explore the possibilities of establishing full diplomatic relations, both with Israel and Jordan. To informed Vatican observers, Cardinal O'Connor's mission is the latest evidence that the Holy See is seriously reexamining its policies towards the Jewish state. Last September in Brazil, the pope signaled that positive change when he said, "We want to have diplomatic relations with Israel, but some problems must be solved." Those problems include Jerusalem,

the Palestinian homeland, and holy places. The current Middle East peace negotiations, however rocky, I believe, has precipitated these beginning changes in the Vatican's policies. The Holy See is the only international body that is not officially involved in the peace process. [10:00] Full diplomatic relations with Israel is now as much as in the Vatican's interest as it is for the Jewish state. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

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ANNOUNCER: WINS news time 7:36, now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM: A traditional Jewish religious group is launching a nationwide educational campaign to promote *Sh'mirat HaLashon* and *Ahavat Yisrael*. *Sh'mirat HaLashon* is Hebrew for "Guarding or purifying one's speech. *Ahavat Yisrael* means "Advocating love, respect, and understanding between members of the Jewish faith community and others." This project will take place in 400 schools and centers around the country, at which some 40,000 schoolchildren and 12,000 adults will literally be trained in respect for other human beings. The horrible biased attacks against the black children in the Bronx; a Russian-Jewish immigrant who was killed; harassment of an Indian immigrant, Latinos, and Koreans, make clear

[11:00] that we have a serious breakdown in basic human values. I wonder if the time is not right for all Christian and Jewish leaders to launch a systematic campaign to purify speech, and contain anti-social behavior. *Sh'mirat HaLashon*, pure speech and civil behavior, is a Hebrew word, but its message belongs to all of us. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

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(break in audio)

ANNOUNCER: WINS news time 7:36, now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM: The life and monumental career of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday the nation observes tomorrow, was deeply intertwined with American Jews. During a memorial service for Dr. King that I attended in Atlanta some years ago, his father, the late Reverend Daddy King, said with emotion, "The Jewish people were the best and most trusted friends of Dr. King, and of the movement." He then told the unknown story of how an Atlanta Jewish lawyer and an accountant had literally saved [12:00] the infant Civil Rights Movement from racist political efforts to smother it. With many others, Jews were deeply committed to Dr. King and the moral cause of civil rights. In turn, Dr. King was a trusted supporter of every major Jewish cause. He vigorously opposed anti-Semitism, as much as racism, advocated the

human rights of Soviet Jews, and steadfastly supported Israel. Blacks and Jews would do well to study together Dr. King's words and deeds of healing and trusted cooperation, especially during these stressful days. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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ANNOUNCER:-- time 7:37, now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:The *New York Times*, last week, featured a front-page story on the role of religious groups in trying to cope with the problem of the homeless. It is an encouraging fact that churches and synagogues were among the first major voluntary groups that responded [13:00] to the plight of homeless people. They provided the first shelters in their buildings, set up soup kitchens, and showed caring and compassion in numerous ways. But the tragic problem continues to grow, and churches and synagogues can't do it all. There is an urgent need for a government policy that will provide housing, jobs, and medical care. Presidential candidates of both parties need to begin confronting homelessness. This painful social problem will not go away. It will, undoubtedly, get worse, unless we mobilize the moral and political will to

help save the lives of our fellow human beings. This is
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are
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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, now here's a commentary by Rabbi
Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:All real living is meeting. The late Jewish philosopher
Martin Buber wrote those words to emphasize the importance
of dialogue in all human relationships. [14:00] Those words
apply dramatically to the historic developments now taking
place before our eyes. After extensive dialogue, world
leaders from 15 nations met at the United Nations, and laid
the foundations for a more peaceful and nuclear-free world
community. In recent days, the astounding experience took
place in Moscow, of Israel meeting with 30 countries,
including most of the Arab and Muslim countries, to discuss
common regional problems. Then China and India, once leaders
of third-world anti-Israel nations, both established full
diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. And the Vatican
is also moving in that direction. All of us are rightly pre-
occupied with the economy and presidential candidates, but
that should not obscure these landmark developments, which
promise better, more peaceful, things for our harried world.
This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time [15:00] 7:36, now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:The brutal murder in Crown Heights of Phyllis Lapine, 38-year-old mother of four small children has sent shockwaves of horror throughout the entire Jewish community. Followed by the beating and robbing of a Hasidic couple shortly thereafter in Crown Heights, has transformed the criminal assaults on the Hasidic community into a broad Jewish, as well as civic, concern. After last summer's confrontation, some steps were taken to improve communication between blacks, Hispanics, and Hasidic Jews. Several dialogues were started between leaders in these communities, and seemed to help improve understanding. The attendance of a number of prominent Afro-American clergy at Mrs. Lapine's funeral last Friday was a welcome demonstration of solidarity. But recent studies indicate that families give birth to criminal elements. It is the rehabilitation of families, and accountability for their children's actions where a major cure lies. This has been a terrible week for Hasidim, it is no less [16:00] than a threat to the survival of a civilized New York City. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:This commentary is broadcast from Detroit, Michigan. I came here for the weekend to address an institute of some 400 Jewish, Christian, and Muslim leaders. The discussions about religious differences and similarities were frank, serious, and respectful. But the overarching concern, which united these groups and bonds of understanding, was a shared anxiety over the impact of the economy on their constituents. As everybody knows, General Motors has announced that it is laying off some 75,000 workers, many in Detroit. This inter-religious group publicly expressed its distress over the paradox that the top auto executives have been getting salaries in the millions of dollars, even though their companies have been failing. The Jewish, Christian, and Muslim [17:00] leaders are pressing for an end to this callous injustice, which they see as a major moral issue. On the eve of Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays, the religious leaders took heart from their moral legacy of equality and justice in their growing opposition to greed and selfishness. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36. Now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:Yesterday's *New York Times* reported that the Sudanese Islamic government has driven some 400,000 refugees out of Khartoum into the desert. They are left without water, food, shelter, or medicines. A UN official there called this brutal expulsion a death sentence. The tragic refugees, who are mostly Christian and African religious people, are being denied water and food, unless they convert to Islam. Such are the destructive consequences of fanaticism and extremism. While the politics are different, [18:00] the leader of the so-called Party of God in Lebanon, Sheikh Musawi, who was killed last Friday by Israeli troops, shared that Sudanese mentality. He was responsible for the savage killing of 241 American Marines in Beirut, the capture of most of the Western hostages, and numerous acts of terror. In the midst of these terrible events, it is cautiously reassuring that Palestinian and other Arab delegations are still coming to Washington tomorrow to continue with Israel, the Middle East peace negotiations. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

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(break in audio)

ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36. Now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:In the post-Cold War world, one of the historic changes is the increasing turn to dialogue, rather than to force of arms to resolve conflict. The United States and the former Soviet Union now dialogue, and even the choppy Middle East peace talks are signs of this new growing era. Not for a moment do I mean [19:00] to minimize the terrible violence and blood-letting that tragically continue in many parts of the world. But the purposes of dialogue need greater understanding and support. Dr. Hannah Arendt, the late brilliant scholar, described the uses of dialogue in this way: "For the Greeks," she wrote, "The essence of friendship among citizens, [*heliaia*?], consisted in discourse. They held that only the [*constinenter*?] change of talk united citizens in a genuine community. The things of this world become human for us, only when we can discuss them with our fellows. We humanize what is going on in the world, and in ourselves, only by speaking of it. And in the course of speaking of it, we learn to be human. That is an insight, I believe, still to be learned in our neighborhoods, and even

in our national elections. Real talk about real issues, and not just sound bites. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time [20:00] 7:38. Now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:The incredible absurdity against the Jewish people attributed to Secretary of State Baker, if true, raises some basic questions about his performance in office. He is, after all, the American government's principal agent for advancing peace agreements between Israel and her Arab neighbors. If, as Mayor Koch insists, Baker's vulgar expletive was indeed spoken, he will have undermined his credibility as an impartial negotiator. This distressing episode also raises questions about Baker's attitudes towards other American ethnic groups. There are many religious ethnic groups in this country involved in foreign policy issues. Greeks, Irish, Italian, Armenians, blacks, Hispanic, often differ with the United States. When Secretary Baker differs with these fellow Americans, what kinds of stereotypes does he privately indulge in? For the sake of his future credibility, Secretary Baker owes a public denial, and if warranted, a public apology, not only

to American Jews, but to all loyal American citizens. This is Rabbi Marc [21:00] Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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ANNOUNCER:-- t 7:37, now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:Purim, the festival of lots, which the Jewish people celebrates this Wednesday evening and Thursday, commemorates the victory of the ancient Persian Jewish community over a plot to destroy them. As told in the biblical Book of Esther, the evil Persian minister Haman tells the Persian King Ahasuerus, that the Jews live by different customs and laws than other people; therefore, let them be destroyed. Thus, the inability of a rigid fanatic mind to live with difference becomes the justification for destroying difference. The defeat of Haman by Esther and Mordecai is celebrated in Purim as a uniquely Jewish Mardi Gras. It demonstrates the value of humor in overcoming suffering. And thus, Purim is an annual affair reminding that Jews have survived over 4,000 years. The Jewish presence among the nations is a sign that difference should be seen as a source [22:00] of enrichment, rather than as a threat. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:The current presidential primaries reveal the anger and resentments of millions of Americans over violations over their trust in government and politics. Checks overdrafts in congressional banks, cocaine being sold in a post office, limousines, endless perks of a self-indulgent aristocracy. A factor in this national anger is the knowledge that the very foundations of American democracy are being systematically betrayed. At the time of the American Revolution, there was a widespread conviction that free government rested on a definite moral basis on public virtue. Thomas Jefferson proclaimed in 1776 that, "The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest. Politicians," he insisted, "Must [23:00] be committed to the public good, independent of all private and selfish interest." Perhaps we need to require all politicians to study American Revolutionary thinkers on the indispensability of virtue for public service. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, Daylight Savings Time. Now, a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:On March 31st, King Juan Carlos of Spain, and President Chaim Herzog of Israel stood side-by-side in a Madrid synagogue to mark the historic close of the Spanish Inquisition. Five hundred years before, on March 31st, 1492, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand issued an order of expulsion that forced some 200,000 Spanish Jews to flee their homeland. A tragedy of the Spanish Inquisition is the destruction is brought on Spain's Jews, but also on Spanish society. For some 700 years, [24:00] Jews, Christians and Muslims lived together in friendly cooperation. The Jewish community has built one of the most brilliant civilizations, the Golden Age of Spain. The triumph of the human spirit was ravaged by religious fanaticism and the monarchy's material greed. Both King Carlos and President Herzog agreed, we cannot change the past, but we can learn its lessons, and thus, assure a better future for ourselves, and for humanity. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:This coming Friday night, the Jewish people begin the observance of Passover. It is the oldest and most influential of Jewish festivals. Passover commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery to Pharaoh in Egypt. The exodus was at once an act of physical and spiritual liberation that decisively changed the religious and moral [25:00] orientation of mankind. Egyptian life was marked by a cruel human slavery and pagan worship of Pharaoh as a god. But Passover celebrates redemption from slavery, not only as a past event, it also celebrates through the colorful Passover Seder, liberation of the present-day experience. At the Seder this year, Jews will be concerned about advancing the Middle East peace process, the security of Israel, the freedom of Russian Jews, and the domestic American moral and economic crisis. Beyond all else, there will be the millennial hope for a more humane and just world, symbolized by the prayer "Next year in Jerusalem." This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum for 1010 WINS.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 7:36, here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM: This coming Thursday will be observed at Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Some Christian friends have asked, [26:00] isn't that obsessive? Why can't the Jews ever forget and forgive? However troubling such comments can be, I believe that Yom HaShoah holds profound meaning for Jews, but also for the entire human family. The Nazis singled out only the Jewish people for total extermination, even as they killed millions of other human beings. Thus, the Holocaust, led by PhD killers, represented a total breakdown in the moral universe of Germany, Austria, and their lives, all countries of ancient Christian civilization. Today, the world witnesses fanatic regimes with chemical, biological, and nuclear capacity. They also dehumanize their enemies, as Hitler did the Jews. The Yom HaShoah commemoration should help all of us better understand the meaning of the Holocaust for the future of mankind, as for the Jewish people. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

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ANNOUNCER: WINS news time 7:37, [27:00] now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, CD-1114. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

TANENBAUM: Tomorrow morning, some 50 leading Catholic and Jewish authorities will meet in Baltimore, Maryland for a high level conference to advance understanding and respect between Catholics and Jews. The Catholic delegation will be headed by Vatican Cardinal Cassidy, and Archbishop [Tieler?] of Baltimore. The president of the International Jewish Committee, Edgar Bronfman, will lead the rabbinic and lay Jewish groups. Those delegations plan to confront directly the sources of anti-Semitism that have bedeviled the past, as well as anti-Catholic bigotry. At sessions dealing with prejudice and group conflict, clearly, the tragedy of Los Angeles will come in for careful examination. Catholics and Jews have made substantial progress in combating group prejudice in recent years. The Baltimore meetings should make serious efforts to bring reconciliation to black-white relations, which distress the entire country. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER: The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS. [28:00]

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ANNOUNCER: WINS news time 7:36, here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM: Mother's Day this year is different from similar observances in years past. The violence and rage in Los Angeles has made us painfully aware of what can happen when

family life breaks down, and single mothers often bear the burden of coping poverty alone. The absence of family values and of fatherly role models are breeding grounds for rage and criminal behavior. The tragedy is that there are numerous methods for strengthening families. But the nation has been flirting with family reconstruction in recent decades. As one positive example, Covenant House is a place of constructive change where people really care, and don't just talk about caring. I recently visited Covenant House's home for unwed mothers, and through love and professional devotion, hundreds of young mothers and their children are helped to rebuild their lives as productive citizens. On this Mother's Day, [29:00] it would make a great difference if the torrent of political rhetoric about Los Angeles were transformed into real mobilization to help restore the American family. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER:The preceding was a commentary --

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ANNOUNCER:WINS news time 6:36. Here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM:Breathtaking achievements of the *Endeavor* astronauts last week is the stuff of which legends and sagas are made. The nation, and millions in the world were transfixed by the sight of three American astronauts achieving the near impossible capture and refiring of the satellite. But the

Endeavor triumph was also, I believe, an important revelation of national will and purpose. Years ago, a White House and congresses determined that it was in the national interest to launch a space program for both political and long-term economic reasons. The project was given the highest priority, backed by billions of dollars in government support. The corroding inner cities of America call for something of that same national vision, and determination to recapture our inner space. [30:00] The critical for all of us is to regain some of the moral commitment and will of the 1960s, and to make care of the inner space, as compelling a challenge as outer space. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER: The preceding, a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS. WINS news time...

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ANNOUNCER: WINS news time 7:36. Now here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM: Memorial Day, from its beginnings in 1866 has united, symbolically, the American people. Powerful bonds of memory and gratitude are shared in honor of our military, who sacrificed their lives in defense of democracy and freedom. Ironically, in this Memorial Day, peace and stability have grown in some parts of Eastern Europe and elsewhere. But our domestic streets continue to be threatened by crime, drugs,

and violence. There was needed serious debate about the economic and political reasons for this destructive pattern. But one thing seems clear: we are indulging, almost passively, a popular [31:00] culture that links sex and violence as entertainment. The value of human life is becoming increasingly shredded before our eyes. We need all of us to reverse that dehumanization while there is still time. Memorial Day should remind us that American military men and women do not sacrifice their lives overseas in order to preserve a morally vicious society at home. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

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ANNOUNCER: WINS news time 7:36. Now, here's a commentary by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee.

TANENBAUM: Today marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the reunification of the holy city of Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, the city government will introduce a document called the Covenant of Jerusalem, which details the uniqueness of this special place. Written by Supreme Court Justice Menachem Elon, the document refers to the hundreds of Biblical verses [32:00] and Talmudic passages that celebrate Jerusalem. The document is divided into seven sections. One section deals with Jerusalem centrality to the Jewish people from King

David down until the present. Another emphasized Jerusalem as the center of peace, where hopefully, Jews, Christians, and Muslims will, in time, live in peaceful coexistence. The document, which will be read today in President Herzog's home, will be signed by Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jews. Jerusalem head justice Elon has finally brought about a consensus, for as much as Israel has reunited Jerusalem, Zion may yet reunite the Jewish people and their Arab neighbors. This is Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum.

ANNOUNCER: The preceding was a commentary; the views expressed are not necessarily the views of WINS.

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