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Preserving American Jewish History

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 12, Folder 11, Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty,
25-30 April 1976.



BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

1520 RACE STREET ★ PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 19102 ★ TELEPHONE (215) 563 2036

An Inter Faith Bicentennial Program of The Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia and The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia

May 21, 1976

Rabbi Marc H Tanenbaum
National Director
Inter-Religious Affairs
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum

The Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty is now over
From all that I have heard -- bolstered by my own personal feelings
-- it was a great success, far exceeding anything which we dared
expect

As one of the Conference speakers, you played an important
part in this success For this, I truly wish to extend appreciation
-- my own as well as that of the Conference Planning Committee As
an indication of the seriousness taken by all, it is noteworthy that
not one speaker had to cancel out at the last minute' And every
address it seemed to me was unique in itself and injected a major
dimension into the total thinking of religious liberty

To say now that the Conference is over and our work concluded
is, of course, to be farcical The concern for religious liberty is
never finished Liberty is scarce across the world and is a fragile
flower, easily crushed even here in our land

Our purpose in a real sense was to lift this up to attention
In this I believe we achieved some success and the ripples from the
Conference will be expanding for a long time For your role in this,
again, we thank you

Most sincerely,

Francis G. Brown
Francis G Brown
Conference Chairman

FGB/err



mcgpa car 0001

FRANCIS G BROWN CHAIRPERSON ★ REV LAVONNE ALTHOUSE ★ RABBI CHARLES LACKS ★ BISHOP MARTIN N LOHMULLER

REV WILLIAM J SHAW VICE CHAIRPERSONS ★ WILLIAM B MILLER SECRETARY ★ RUFUS CORNELSEN TREASURER ★ NANCY L NOLDE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

1520 RACE STREET ★ PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 19102 ★ TELEPHONE (215) 563 2036

Apr 1976

An Inter Faith Bicentennial Program of The Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia and The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia

May 16, 1975

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Inter-Religious Affairs
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum

I was pleased to hear from Rabbi Morris V. Dembowitz that you are considering our invitation to present one of the major addresses to the Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty to be held here in Philadelphia, April 25-30, 1976. You may recall that sometime ago you kindly agreed to the use of your name as a member of the National Committee for the Conference.

As perhaps Rabbi Dembowitz told you, plans have moved rapidly ahead since then. In January, the Protestant/Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Jewish communities of Philadelphia agreed to cooperate in the sponsorship and support of the Conference, the first such joint venture in this city. The Conference will involve some 400 persons and will be the only national event, to our knowledge, dealing with issues of religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

Specifically, we invite you to be the main speaker at the morning session on Wednesday, April 28, on the topic, "Contemporary Issues of Church/State Relations". This address will be followed by three shorter speeches dealing with different aspects of the theme. The three speakers scheduled here will be the Constitutional lawyer, William Ball, on the topic "Religious Liberty and Education", Dr. John Raines, Assistant Professor of Religion at Temple University, on "Religious Liberty and the Distribution of Power", and Dr. Elwyn Smith, Provost of Eckerd College, Florida, on "Civil Religion".

I will not presume to suggest what issues you might wish to speak to in your address, should you accept our invitation. Perhaps it will be helpful, however, for you to know something of the background of Planning Committee discussions.

FRANCIS G. BROWN, CHAIRMAN

REV. LAVONNE ALTHOUSE ★ RABBI CHARLES LACKS ★ BISHOP MARTIN N. LOHMULLER ★ REV. WILLIAM J. SHAW, VICE CHAIRPERSONS
WILLIAM B. MILLER, SECRETARY ★ REV. RUFUS CORNELSEN, TREASURER ★ NANCY L. NOLDE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We started with the premise that First Amendment guarantees speak to considerably broader issues than those normally identified with traditional issues of church/state relations, i.e., that the demands of contemporary society move the meaning of religious liberty far beyond traditional concerns for freedom of worship and from ecclesiastical entanglements. We further understood that religious liberty--with its natural derivatives of freedom of speech and action--is both the ground and guardian of all other liberties and inseparably related to them. The full and unimpaired right to think and believe freely is the basis of all economic, social, educational, political, and legal rights.

A phrase introduced into our discussions by Dr. Franklin Littell, Conference program co-chairman, was "soul liberty", as used by William Penn. Dr. Littell defined this as "the affirmation of the integrity of the human person and his right, individually and in community, to make his own ultimate commitments."

We have also been concerned with the fact that religious liberty can exist only where other liberties are also achieved and that one cannot speak of it apart from the functional freedoms such as right of assembly and association, right to own property, freedom to teach, and the access to accurate information.

I trust these few comments will be helpful. They are not meant in anyway to be restrictive. Either Rabbi Dembowitz or Rabbi Lacks, both of whom are Planning Committee members, will be able to give you further information and I would be pleased to talk with you about it, if you wish.

The enclosed background material provides additional information. We are suggesting your speech be 40 minutes. Honorarium would be \$300. We would also pay your travel, hotel, meals, and related costs. While we recognize the pressures of your schedule, we are asking all speakers to participate, if at all possible, as full Conference members for its duration.

Under Conference auspices, we are setting up a Speakers Bureau to schedule talks by Conference leaders to area churches, synagogues, and community groups. A special emphasis will be on the two days preceding the opening of the Conference, April 24-25, which will be marked in the Philadelphia area as Religious Liberty Sabbath and Religious Liberty Sunday. Should you agree to be a speaker, we would like your permission to list your name on the Bureau roster. Local groups would then be asked to get in touch with you directly to make the necessary arrangements and set honoraria.

We are negotiating with a publisher in New York for a volume of Conference papers, and would also need to know if you have any royalty agreements with any firm which might conflict with these arrangements.

In addition, we would need up-to-date biographical information and a recent photograph for use in Conference publicity. We hope further that you would be able to make available a copy of your speech text, not later than April 1, 1976, so that we could make it available in advance, with the proper embargo, to the press and to speakers following you at the same session.

On behalf of the Conference Committee, may I express the sincere hope that you will be able to address the Conference on this major topic. We shall look forward to hearing from you soon.

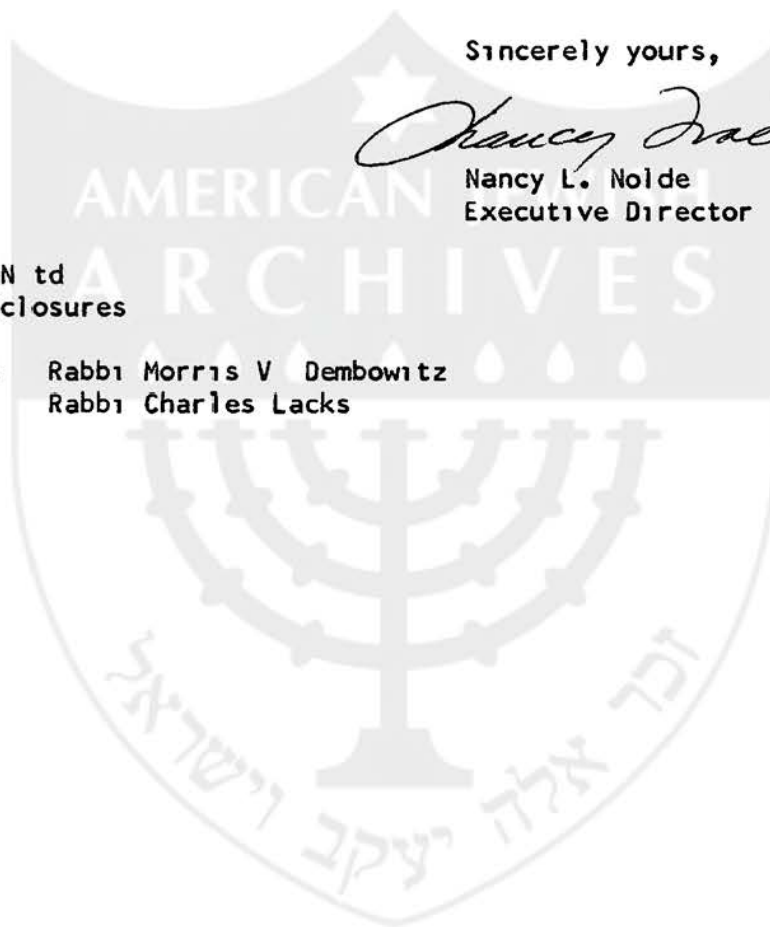
Sincerely yours,



Nancy L. Nolde
Executive Director

NLN td
Enclosures

cc Rabbi Morris V. Dembowitz
Rabbi Charles Lacks



The attached "Statement of Understanding" concerning the development of Conference program has been approved by the officials of the Metropolitan Christian Council, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia.



STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty will be a national six-day event to be held in Philadelphia April 25-30, 1976. It will convene 400 religious liberty scholars, historians, clergy, academicians, rights leaders, and others from across the nation.

The purpose of the Conference will be two fold 1) to celebrate the God-given right of religious liberty and to commemorate the Constitutional guarantees and the heritage of this liberty and the freedom of conscience in the life of the nation, 2) to provide a study forum for the re-examination and re-assessment of the foundations, history, contemporary implications, and future prospects of this sacred liberty and the rights of the independent conscience. It will be both a celebration and a critical re-affirmation of the concepts of the dignity and inviolability of the human person which have their roots, and have been nurtured, in our Judeo-Christian traditions.

Religious liberty cannot be equated with liberties and rights in other areas as though it were one among many or parallel to them. The freedom to live and act according to conscience is the foundation of all other rights and their chief condition and guardian. The integrity of endeavor, indeed the endeavor itself, in every other area--legal, social, political, economic, educational--depends upon the basic right of freedom of conscience.

To express this concern, however, is not to say that the Conference will deal with substantive matters in all these areas. The Conference will be firmly grounded in the concern for religious liberty and will underline the intrinsic inter-relationship between it and the other liberties. General Conference topics will include foundation of our heritage of religious liberty; conscience and society, rights and responsibilities of dissent, contemporary issues in church and state relations, religious liberty in the international scene and future prospects for religious liberty. More specific issues discussed in panels or in seminars will range from First Amendment guarantees, to civil religion, to issues of clergy confidentiality, to the rights of privacy.

As a joint program of the Christian and Jewish communities in the Philadelphia area, the Conference will itself be an embodiment of the spirit of American religious pluralism. It will therefore not seek the formation of consensus or the development of Conference statements. Nor will it function as a legislative or action body. Its aim will be to foster respectful and critical dialogue, open sharing by groups and individuals about truths and concerns as they understand and experience them, and freely listening to the thoughts and persuasions of others on the most pressing issues of religious liberty.

In providing this forum for study of these timely and important questions, the Conference will make a significant contribution both to scholarly debate and to ecumenical understanding and cooperation. In bringing the spotlight of public opinion to bear upon vital issues it will contribute to deeper understanding and renewed commitment to the basic concepts underlying our free society. It is right and fitting that those most benefiting from religious liberty--members of our religious community--should take the lead in the development of such a Conference.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

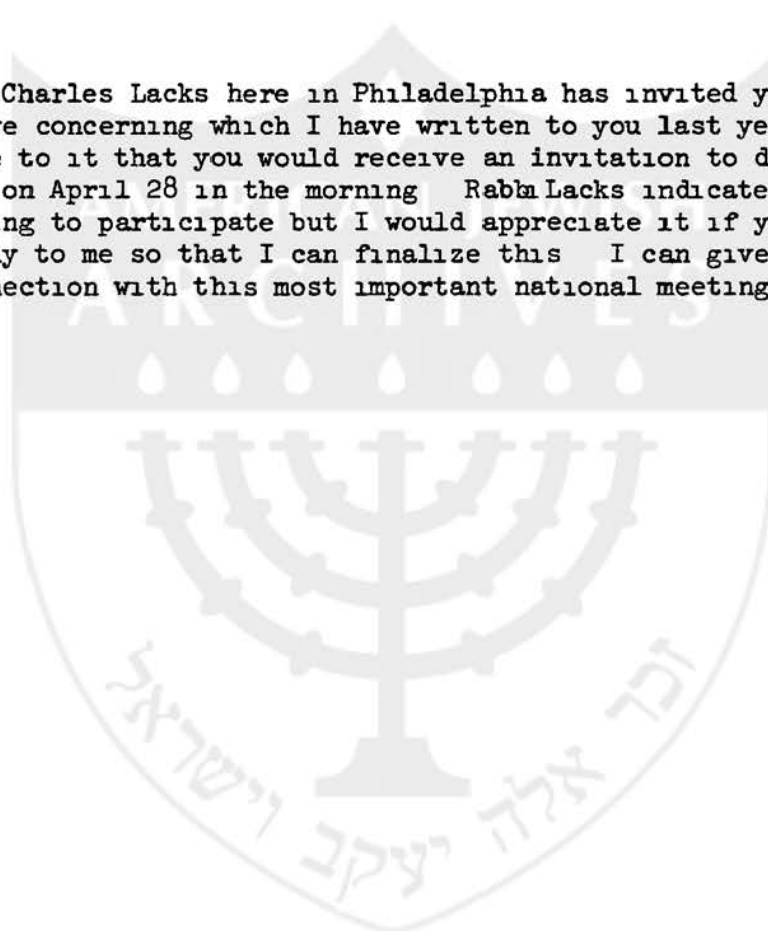
date FO-PA-D-M
September 9, 1975

to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum ✓
from Murray Friedman M #

subject Your Participation in Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty

I believe Rabbi Charles Lacks here in Philadelphia has invited you to take part in the above concerning which I have written to you last year. I worked very hard to see to it that you would receive an invitation to deliver a major seminar address on April 28 in the morning. Rabbi Lacks indicates that you agreed last spring to participate but I would appreciate it if you could confirm more specifically to me so that I can finalize this. I can give you more details later on in connection with this most important national meeting.

MF r



Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty
1520 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19102
Telephone 215/563-2036

SPEAKERS BUREAU

April 25-30, 1976
Philadelphia, Pa

A Conference Speakers Bureau is being organized to help meet the number of requests received from Philadelphia area churches, synagogues, and community organizations for speeches by Conference leaders and others on the religious liberty theme and related concerns

If you wish to have your name listed on the Speakers Bureau roster, please fill out the following form and return it to the address indicated at your earliest convenience. No arrangements will be made without prior clearance with the speaker involved and no speaker will be asked to fill more than one assignment or to speak at a time when the Conference is in session.

Conference participants who receive requests other than those channeled through the Speakers Bureau are asked to notify the Bureau of these, for its records.

Brief biographical information and a recent glossy photo should be returned with this form

To The Rev Howard G Hartzell
Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty
c/o First Baptist Church
17th & Sansom Streets
Philadelphia, Pa 19103

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

NAME RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

ADDRESS AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
165 EAST 56TH STREET,

NEW YORK, NEW YORK ZIP 10022

PHONE NUMBER 212-751-4000 Ext 209

EXPECTED ARRIVAL DATE April 27, 1976 EXPECTED DEPARTURE DATE April 29, 1976

Could you plan to be in the city Saturday, April 24, to fill engagements prior to the opening of the Conference? Yes XX No, or to remain in the city for engagements the weekend following (May 1-2) Yes XX No
Honorarium desired _____

Title and general topic area of speech _____
RELIGION IN AN AGE OF VIOLENCE

Photo and bio material enclosed YES

Date 4/11/76

[Signature]
Signature

Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty
 1520 Race Street
 Philadelphia, Pa 19102
 Phone 215/563-2036

REGISTRATION - SPEAKERS

(Please print or type)

Name RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
 Address 165 EAST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK Zip 10022 Phone No. (212) 751-4000 ext. 209
 Area Code

Arrival Date April 27 1976 Departure Date April 29 1976

Will you be accompanied by your spouse? Yes NO No

If you do not plan to stay at the Holiday Inn, please give other Conference address, if known _____

May we have your permission to include our speech either in full or edited with your approval, in the Conference book YES

Biographical information and photo enclosed YES

Do you wish to have a poster from the conference? YES

F- Nov 176
26, 176

for
MHT &
J. Termer

October 10, 1975

Ms Nancy L. Nolde
Executive Director
Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty
1520 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Dear Ms. Nolde,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter of
September 30th.

I wish to confirm my acceptance of your kind invitation to address your Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty on April 28th, at 9 a.m., in Philadelphia.

I will plan to confine my presentation to the 30-35 minute limit that you suggest.

I look forward with much pleasure to seeing you and my many other friends in Philadelphia at that time.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT RPR

cc Rabbi Morris Dembowitz



RECOGNIZED BY
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL
ADMINISTRATION

BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

1520 RACE STREET ★ PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 19102 ★ TELEPHONE (215) 563 2036

An Inter Faith Bicentennial Program of The Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia and The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia

September 30, 1975

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Inter-Religious Affairs
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum

Rabbi Morris Dembowitz has shared with me the good news that you will be able to accept the invitation sent you earlier to address the Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty on Wednesday morning, April 28, at 9-a.m., in Philadelphia.

The enclosed copy of the original letter sent you outlines the arrangements, all of which remain the same, except that we are asking plenary speakers to limit their addresses to 30-35 minutes because of scheduling concerns.

We hope that you will be able to participate in the entire Conference, and, of course, will underwrite all the costs involved if you can. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Philadelphia and with anticipation to your valued contribution to the Conference.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy L. Nolde
Executive Director

NLN:td
Enclosures

cc Rabbi Morris Dembowitz

FRANCIS G. BROWN, CHAIRMAN

REV. LAVONNE ALTHOUSE ★ RABBI CHARLES LACKS ★ BISHOP MARTIN N. LOHMULLER ★ REV. WILLIAM J. SHAW, VICE CHAIRPERSONS
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BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

520 RACE STREET ★ PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 19102 ★ TELEPHONE (215) 563 2036

An Inter Faith Bicentennial Program of The Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
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May 16, 1975

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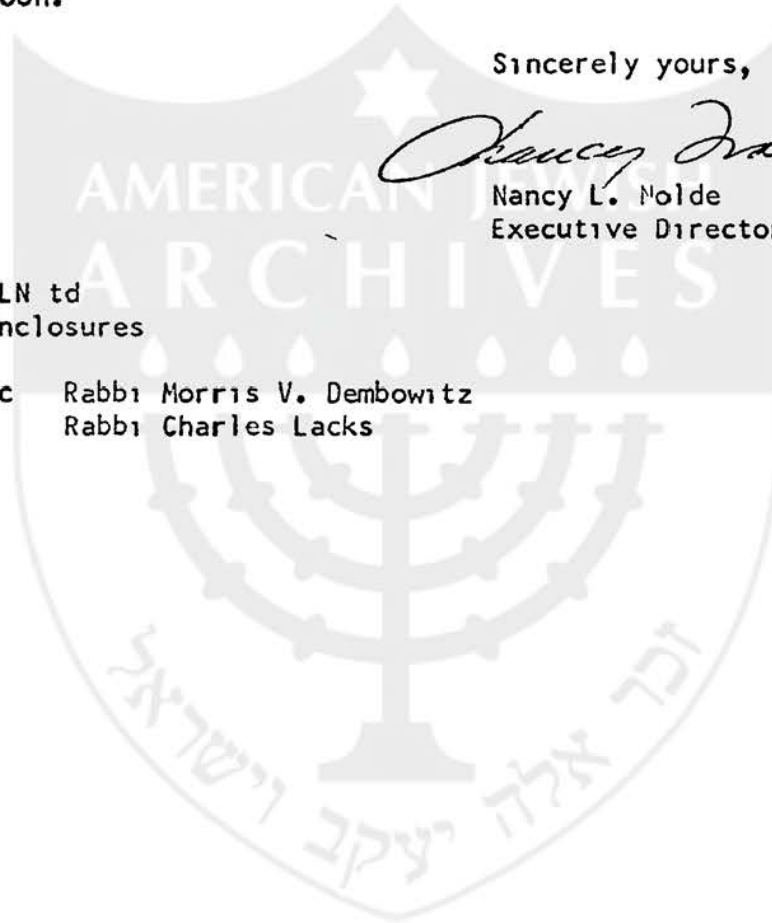
Sincerely yours,



Nancy L. Molde
Executive Director

NLN:td
Enclosures

cc Rabbi Morris V. Dembowitz
Rabbi Charles Lacks



Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty
1520 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19102
Telephone 215/563-2036

GENERAL INFORMATION - CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

HOTELS

Rooms for Conference speakers and other leaders have been reserved at the Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia. Reservations should be made by returning the enclosed card to the hotel. Conference headquarters will also be at this hotel. Check-in and check-out time at the hotel is NOON.

EXPENSES

The Conference will pay the costs of travel, hotel, meals, and other related expenses for speakers.

Travel Travel by car will be reimbursed at the prevailing rate.
Travel by air and train will be reimbursed at economy class rate.

Hotel Please check the accuracy of charges debited against your hotel bill and sign the bill as authorization for payment before checking out.

Expense sheets will be sent to you later. These should be returned to the Conference Office at the conclusion of the Conference. The honorarium will also be paid at this time. Advances against expenses may be requested from the Conference Office.

MEALS

All Conference members will make their own arrangements for meals with the exception of the Conference banquet on Thursday evening, April 29. The Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets, has its own restaurant and there are numerous other good and inexpensive places to eat in the area.

(Jewish participants who observe strict dietary laws are asked to contact the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia for information about names of restaurants in the area where these laws are observed. The address is 117 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19103. Telephone No 215/563-1463.)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Reception Speakers and other Conference leaders will be the guests of honor at a reception given by Philadelphia Protestant/Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Jewish leaders on Sunday evening, April 25, at 5 p.m., Ballroom, Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets.

Banquet The Conference banquet is scheduled Thursday evening, April 29, Ballroom, Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Broad and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia.

Public Meeting A meeting designed to promote the Conference theme to the general public is scheduled Tuesday evening, April 27, Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, the Parkway, Philadelphia.

SPOUSES

Spouses of Conference speakers are invited to attend all Conference plenary sessions, the opening reception on April 25, and the banquet Thursday, April 29, as guests of the Conference

The Conference regrets that it cannot underwrite travel, hotel, meal or related costs for spouses

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

Philadelphia is readily accessible by various means of transportation. The Pennsylvania Turnpike and I-95 both lead to the city. Amtrak trains arrive at the 30th St. station (fifteen minutes from hotel) regularly. Express buses use the downtown terminal. Airport limousine service every thirty minutes from front of hotel.

Parking is free at the Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets, or in the lot behind the Friends Meeting House, 4th and Arch Streets.

CONFERENCE BOOK

Negotiations are underway for publication of a Conference book with the understanding that all scheduled Conference speeches will be original contributions. Please indicate in the space provided in the enclosed form if the Conference may have permission to include your speech--either in full, or in a form edited with your approval in the book. Proceeds after publisher's costs have been met will be used to defray Conference expenses.

SPEECH TEXTS

Speakers are asked to send copies of their speeches by April 15 to the Conference office so that copies may be run off for distribution to the press--with an embargo for publication at the time of delivery.

REGISTRATION

Conference registration will open at NOON, Sunday, April 25, Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets.

Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chairman

Francis G. Brown, General Secretary, Philadelphia
Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Vice-Chairpersons

The Rev. LaVonne Althouse, Pastor, Salem Lutheran
Church, Philadelphia

Rabbi Charles Lacks, Immediate Past President,
Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia

Bishop Martin N. Lohmuller, Vicar General of the
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia

The Rev. William J. Shaw, Pastor, White Rock
Baptist Church, Philadelphia

Secretary

Dr. William B. Miller, Director, Presbyterian
Historical Society, Philadelphia

Treasurer

Dr. Rufus Cornelsen, Executive Director, Metropolitan
Christian Council of Philadelphia

Members

Bishop James M. Ault, Presiding Bishop, Philadelphia Area, United Methodist
Church, Philadelphia

Dr. Edwin B. Bronner, Librarian and Professor of History, Haverford College,
Haverford, Pennsylvania

Mr. Albert D. Chernin, Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations
Council, Philadelphia

Mr. Anderson D. Clark, Affiliate Artists, Inc., New York

Rabbi Morris V. Dembowitz, President, Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia

The Rev. Charles V. Devlin, Executive Director, Cardinal's Commission on
Human Relations, Philadelphia

The Rev. Charles H. Diamond, Bicentennial Coordinator, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Bishop Alfred G. Dunston, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Philadelphia

Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, Chairman, Project F O R W A R D '76, a Bicentennial
Project of the Interchurch Center, New York

The Rev. Everett Francis, Chairman, Ecumenical Task Force on the Religious
Observance of the Bicentennial, New York

Dr. Murray Friedman, Regional Director, American Jewish Committee, Philadelphia

Dr. Charles W. Fu, Department of Religion, Temple University, Philadelphia

Rabbi Harold Goldfarb, Executive Secretary, Board of Rabbis of Greater
Philadelphia

The Rev. Joseph L. Joiner, Pastor, Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal
Church, Philadelphia

The Rev Dean M Kelley, Secretary, Ecumenical Task Force on the Religious Observance of the Bicentennial, New York

Rabbi Bertram W Korn, Congregation of Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

Dr Robert Kreider, Former President of Bluffton College, Lima, Ohio, Member of Executive Committee, Mennonite Central Committee

The Rev John A Limberakis, Archpriest, Greek Orthodox Community of Philadelphia, Pastor, Church of the Annunciation, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

Dr Franklin H Littell, Professor of Religion, Temple University, Philadelphia

Dr Frederick E Maser, Executive Secretary, World Methodist Historical Society

Mr William R Meek, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Dr John M Moore, Editor, Quaker History, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

The Rev Hugh J Nolan, Professor of Theology, Immaculata College, Immaculata, Pennsylvania

The Rev Bernhard E Olson, Director of Inter-Religious Program, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc, New York

Dr John C Raines, Assistant Professor of Religion, Temple University, Philadelphia

The Rev F Lee Richards, Rector, St Peter's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia

Mr John H Sardeson, Executive Director, Greater Philadelphia Region, National Conference of Christians and Jews

Dr John C Shetler, Chairman, Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia, Conference Minister, Pa Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, Collegeville, Pennsylvania

The Rev Grant Spradling, Consultant in the Arts, United Church of Christ, New York

Dr Murray S Stedman, Department of Political Science, Temple University, Philadelphia

Dr Frank H Stroup, Executive Secretary, Philadelphia Presbytery, United Presbyterian Church in the U S A

Dr Margaret B Tinkcom, Executive Director, Philadelphia Historical Commission

Dr Cynthia C Wedel, Associate Director, Center for a Voluntary Society, Washington, D C

Dr Don Yoder, Associate Professor, Department of Folklore and Folklife, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTYPLENARY SESSIONS TOPICSSunday, April 25

Afternoon--Registration

(Part II presentations are intended as expositions of a related aspect of the major speech, not reactions to it, and although shorter in length, of equal importance)

Monday, April 26

A.M.--PLENARY I

Part I Keynote Address Foundations of our Heritage--
Sources and Traditions of Religious Liberty

Part II Religious Liberty from Several Traditions
One Speaker each
Jewish
Protestant/Orthodox
Roman Catholic

Tuesday, April 27

A.M.--PLENARY II

Part I Address Conscience and Society--The Rights of
Prophecy

Part II The Contemporary American Experience of Conscience
and Dissent
One Speaker each
The Peace Testimony
Civil Disobedience
A New Shape of Dissent

Wednesday, April 28

A.M.--PLENARY III

Part I Address Contemporary Issues of Church/State Relations

Part II One Speaker each
Education
(Parochial School, Amish, et al, Bible Reading, etc)
Religious Liberty and the Distribution of Power
Civil Religion

Thursday, April 29

A.M --PLENARY IV

Address Religious Liberty and the International ScenePart I The Global View (One Speaker)Part II The American Responsibility (One Speaker)P.M --PLENARY V (3 00 - 6 00 P M) Reports of Seminars & DiscussionFriday, April 30

A.M --PLENARY VI

Part I Continuation of Seminar Reports and DiscussionPart II Two Addresses The Prospect for Religious Liberty

Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty

SPEAKERS CONFIRMED

Dr. Franklin H. Littell, Professor of Religion, Temple University,

Keynote Address - "Foundations of Our Heritage, Sources and Traditions of Religious Liberty"

Dr. Robert McAfee Brown, Professor Religious Studies, Stanford University,

Speech - "The Protestant Tradition of Religious Liberty"

Dr. William Jones, Pastor, Bethany Church, New York
Head of Operation Breadbasket New York

Address - "Conscience and Society - The Rights of Prophecy"

Dr. William Sloane Coffin, Jr., Chaplain, Yale University,

Speech - "Civil Disobedience"

William Ball, Esq., Constitutional lawyer (fought case for Amish which led to Supreme Court decision in 1971)

Speech - "Religious Liberty and Education"

Dr. Philip Potter, General Secretary, World Council of Churches

Address - "The Global View of Religious Liberty"

Dr. M. K. Curry, President of Bishop College, Dallas, President of United Negro College Fund

Address - "The Prospect for Religious Liberty"

Dr. Cynthia C. Wedel, Associate Director, Center for a Voluntary Society (Former President of National Council of Churches)

Address - "The Prospect for Religious Liberty"

Dr. John C. Paines, Assistant Professor of Religion, Temple University,

Speech - "Religious Liberty and the Distribution of Power"

The Rev. Theodore Hesburg, C S C, President of Notre Dame University

Address - "Religious Liberty and the International Scene--The American Responsibility"

Dr. Elwyn A. Smith, Provost, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida,
Former President of the American Church History Society

Speech - "Civil Religion"

Dr. Robert Gordis, Professor of Bible, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York

Speech - "The Jewish Tradition of Religious Liberty"

Speaker
Probable

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date April 4, 1975
to Marc Tanenbaum
from Murray Friedman *MF*
subject

I am enclosing a xerox of a preliminary recommendation of the bi-centennial conference on religious liberty that is being planned here in Philadelphia by the three religious faiths. You will note that I have pressed for your inclusion on April 28, 1976 under a category of contemporary issues of Church-State Relations. I am sending a copy of this to Gladys Rosen who I believe is watching bi-centennial programming for the agency

MF s

cc Gladys Rosen

More, this is a big one - if it gets off the ground.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLENARY SESSIONS

Sunday, April 25

(One to be chosen in cases where several names are listed)

Afternoon--Registration

Evening--Hospitality/Reception

Monday, April 26

A M --PLENARY I

Chairman, Bishop Lohmuller

Part I - Keynote Address Foundations of our Heritage
--Sources and Traditions of Religious Liberty

Speaker --Franklin H. Littell

Part II - Panel Religious Liberty from Several Traditions

- Jewish-- *Robbi Horden*

- Protestant--Robert McAfee Brown

- Roman Catholic--John T. Ellis, S. J.

Tuesday, April 27

A M --PLENARY II

Chairman, Francis Brown

Part I - Address Conscience and Society--Rights and Responsibilities of Dissent

Speaker --*1)* Jessie Jackson
2) Dr. William Jones, Head of
Operation Breadbasket, New York
3) Wyatt Walker

Part II - Panel The Contemporary American Experience of Conscience and Dissent

- Pacifism (including amnesty and CO questions)

--Dr. Hutchinson, Douglass Steare, John Coleman,
Dr. John Yoder (Mennonite)

- Civil Disobedience--William S. Coffin, Jr.

- Rights of Prophecy--Gayraud Wilmore, Andrew Young

Francis Brown

Wednesday, April 28

A M --PLENARY III

Chairman, Rabbi Lacks

Contemporary Issues of Church/State Relations

Speaker --~~Marc Tanenbaum~~, Balfour Brickner, ~~Theodore Hesburgh~~,
Avery Dulles, S J , (Rep) Robert Drinan

Part II- Panel (Further development of above)

- Education
(Parochial School, Amish, et al, Bible reading etc)
--William Ball
- Religious Liberty and the Distribution of Power
--John Raines
- Civil Religion
--Elwyn Smith

Thursday, April 29

A M --PLENARY IV

Chairman, The Rev William Shaw

Religious Liberty and the International Scene

Part I - The Global View

Speaker--Philip Potter

Part II- The American Responsibility

Speaker--~~Balfour Brickner~~

Friday, April 30

A M --PLENARY V

Chairwoman, The Rev LaVonne Aitnouse

The Prospect for Religious Liberty

Speaker--Peter Berger
Martin Marty

Dr M K Curry, President of Bishop College, Dallas
(President United Negro College Fund)

Charles Whelan, S J , Associate Editor of America

Conference Conclusion Chairman Francis Brown

(Panel presentations are intended as expositions of a related aspect of the major speech not reactions to it and although shorter in length, of equal importance)

Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty
1520 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19102
Phone 215/563-2036

DAILY SCHEDULE

April 25-30, 1976
Philadelphia, Pa

REGISTRATION Sunday, April 25 Noon - Evening
Monday, April 26 9 a m - 6 p m
Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets

SUNDAY, April 25

5 00 - 7 00 p m Reception for Conference dignitaries, participants, and guests
Ballroom, Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets

DAILY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, April 26, through THURSDAY, April 29

9 00 - 11 15 a m PLENARY - Friends Meeting House, 4th and Arch Streets

11 15 - 11 45 a m Coffee Break

11 45 - 1 00 p m SECTIONS

1 00 - 2 15 p m Lunch

2 15 - 3 15 p m Film Program (optional)
and
Post Plenary Discussion (optional)

3 30 - 5 30 p m SEMINARS (April 26 through April 28)
SEMINAR REPORT GROUPS (April 29)

FRIDAY, April 30

9 00 - 10 30 p m SEMINAR REPORT GROUPS

10 30 - 11 00 p m Coffee Break

11 00 - 12 ~~30~~ p m FINAL PLENARY

EVENING SCHEDULE

MONDAY, April 26 - 8 00 p m PLAY
"The First Hundred Years"
Old First Reformed Church, 4th and Race Streets

TUESDAY, April 27 - 8 00 p m PUBLIC MEETING
Speaker - Dr Elie Wiesel
Friends Meeting House, 4th and Arch Streets

THURSDAY, April 29 - 7 00 p m CONFERENCE BANQUET - Arts Program by Affiliate Artists
and The Religious Communities for the Arts (RCA)
Ballroom, Bellevue Stratford Hotel
Broad and Walnuts Streets

BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

SEMINARS

(The examples in the parentheses following the topics are given as illustrations of the kinds of questions with which each Seminar might deal. They are not intended as exhaustive or binding.)

Free Exercise of Religion (Deprogramming of converts to religious sects "The right to be different collectively" Effects of new property and tax laws Church/State issues)

Moderator Rabbi Bertram Korn, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, Pa

Discussant Dr. Dean M. Kelley, Executive for Religious Liberty, National Council of Churches, New York

Religious and Ethnic Minorities (Rights of conscience of minority persons and groups in pluralistic society Role of religious organizations Issues raised by ethnic/religious affirmations Examination of Melting Pot concept)

Moderator Dr. Dennis J. Clark, Ethnic Studies Association, Philadelphia

Discussant Dr. Murray Friedman, Regional Director, American Jewish Committee, Philadelphia

Religious Liberty and Public Education (Supreme Court decision on prayers and Bible reading in public schools Teaching of "scientism" and other "secular values" in public schools Rights of school children and their parents Rights of the community)

Moderator Dr. Joyce Bailey, Assistant Professor of Christian Education, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey

Discussant Dr. James E. Wood, Jr., Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Religious Liberty and Private Education (Questions raised by the Supreme Court ban on provision of "auxiliary services" to non-public schools Exclusion by private institutions which get tax benefits of applicants on basis of religious or ethnic background)

Moderator Dr. John R. Coleman, President, Haverford College, Haverford, Pa

Discussant Monsignor Edward T. Hughes, Rector of Our Lady of Fatima Church, Secane, Pa., former Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, former Moderator of Department of Education of Pennsylvania Catholic Conference

Civil Religion (Identification of national aspirations with religious values Impact on secular and religious institutions and other areas)

Moderator Dr. Roland R. Hegstad, Editor, Liberty, Seventh Day Adventists, Washington, D. C.

Discussant Ms. Elizabeth Bettenhausen, Secretary for Social Concerns, Lutheran Church in America, New York

Conscience and the Limits of Civil Obedience (Affirmation of rights of individuals and groups to make ultimate commitments and witness to them Confrontation with forces which undermine personal dignity and integrity Criteria for action)

Moderator Rev. William J. Shaw, Pastor, White Rock Baptist Church, Philadelphia

Discussant Dr. Richard J. Niebanck, III, Secretary for Social Concerns, Lutheran Church in America, New York

Rights of Privacy and Clergy Confidentiality (Clarification of issues How essential is privacy? Are there instances when invasion is legitimate? Appropriate responses when rights are violated Responsibilities and role of religious organizations)

Moderator Dr. Robert G. Stephanopoulos, Pastor, Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral, Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Discussant Dr. Dieter T. Hessel, Associate for Adult Resources and Social Education, United Presbyterian Church in the USA, New York

Women's Liberation and Rights of Conscience (Sexism in social, economic, political, and religious structures)

Moderator Ms Judith Ann Heffernan, M Div (St Maur's Theological Seminary, Indianapolis), Educator, Philadelphia

Discussant Dr Patricia Budd Kepler, Director of Ministerial Studies, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mass Communication and the Formation of Human Values (Morality of "controlled news " Propaganda Advertising as handmaiden to consumer society)

Moderator Dr Murray S Stedman, Jr , Chairman, Department of Political Science, Temple University, Philadelphia

Discussant Dr Robert Lewis Shayon, Professor of Communications, Annenberg School of Communications, University of Pennsylvania

Genocide as National Policy and Resistance Thereto (Related evils of repression and persecution as the ultimate pathological opposite of religious liberty)

Moderator Dr Homer A Jack, Secretary-General, World Conference of Religion and Peace, New York

Discussant Sister Ann Gillen, Executive Director, National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, Chicago

The Aging and Rights of Conscience (Does society have an obligation to keep qualified people in the working force after age 65? Are the social and economic problems resulting from retirement the responsibility of voluntary organizations or government? In what areas should there be cooperation?)

Moderator Dr R Alvin Wilson, President, Gray Panthers Project Find, Inc , Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Discussant Ms Maggie Kuhn, National Convener, Gray Panthers, Philadelphia

Religious Liberty and International Affairs (Daily new violations in such areas as Korea, Chile, Philippines, Southern Africa, Rhodesia, etc United Nations Covenants and Declarations International responsibility and unanswered questions)

Moderator Ms Alba Zizzamia, Office for World Justice and Peace, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York

Discussant Dr Richard M Fagley, Executive Secretary, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, New York

The Military/Industrial Complex and the Concerned Conscience (The challenge of war to ethical resources Issues raised by entanglement of economy in military/industrial complex Fresh ways of responding)

Moderator Sister Margaret McKenna, Medical Mission Sisters, Philadelphia

Discussant George Lakey, Friends Peace Committee, Philadelphia

Medical Ethics and Rights of Conscience (Euthanasia, abortion legislation, ethics of organ transplants Guidelines for use of new scientific discoveries)

Moderator The Rev Bruce Hilton, Director, National Center for Bio-Ethics, Madison, New Jersey

Discussant Sister Margaret Farley, The Divinity School, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Prophecy (Rights of individuals and groups to speak out against restrictions and injustices of the status quo)

Moderator Dr Ira Eisenstein, President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Philadelphia

Discussant The Rev David Gracie, St Barnabas Church, 3rd and Dauphin Streets, Philadelphia

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BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

1520 RACE STREET ★ PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 19102 ★ TELEPHONE (215) 563 2036

An Inter Faith Bicentennial Program of The Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia and The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia

March 15, 1976

Dear Friend

I write to bring you up-to date information about the Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty and to request your participation in two additional events, as your schedule permits, on the day on which you will speak, as follows

1) Press Conference To be held for speakers at the morning plenary session immediately following that session at approximately 11:30, in the Jones Room, lobby level Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets. Press Conference chairman will be the Right Rev. J. Brooke Mosley, Assistant to the Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania of the Episcopal Church.

2) Post Plenary Discussion Session To be held Monday through Thursday for speakers of the morning plenary of the same day, following lunch, at 2:15 p.m., in the Conyngham Room, lobby level, Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets.

The purpose of this session is to give Conference participants a chance to talk to speakers, and the speakers to talk with each other in the company of participants. (No question and answer period is scheduled in the plenary.) The session will be listed as "optional" on the Conference program and it is anticipated the audience will be both smaller and more specifically concerned with the topic than that of the plenary session so that the chance for genuine conversation will be greatly increased. Chairman for this will be Dr. Marion de Velder, General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America.

Other program concerns are these:

"Friendly Presence" Under auspices of the Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, a corps of persons to be known as "The Friendly Presence" is being trained in non-violent techniques and discipline. These persons will be present at all Conference plenary sessions and many of the smaller meetings to help keep the peace. We expect that the Conference will be carried out without difficulty, but we will be prepared for any eventuality.

Conference Seminars Information about leaders and topics is given in the enclosed material. You are welcome to participate in any one of these sessions, or to range among them, as you wish.

Text of Your Speech We would like to have this, if possible, by April 1--and at the latest by April 15--so that copies can be made available in advance, with an embargo, for the press.



FRANCIS G. BROWN, CHAIRPERSON ★ REV. LAVONNE ALTHOUSE ★ RABBI CHARLES LACKS ★ BISHOP MARTIN N. LOHMULLER
REV. WILLIAM J. SHAW, VICE CHAIRPERSONS ★ WILLIAM B. MILLER, SECRETARY ★ RUFUS CORNELSEN, TREASURER ★ NANCY L. NOLDE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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March 16, 1976

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Hotel Registration If you have not already done so, please send in your hotel registration card as soon as possible. An extra form is enclosed for your convenience.

Banquet Conference speakers will be seated at the head table as honored guests (Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m., Ballroom, Bellevue Stratford Hotel). The program for this is being produced by Affiliate Artists and the Religious Communities for the Arts.

Expenses (Speakers from out of town)

Travel Travel by car will be reimbursed at the rate of 12¢ per mile.

Travel by air and train will be reimbursed at economy class rate.

Hotel The Conference will pay your hotel bill at the Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia. It will not pay for extras such as phone calls or room service. Please check the accuracy of charges debited against your hotel bill and sign the bill as authorization for payment before checking out.

Per Diem The Conference will provide a per diem of \$20 for meals and other expenses.

Expenses (Philadelphia-based Speakers)

Expenses incurred in connection with Conference participation will be reimbursed.

Advances may be requested from the Conference Office as required.
Write: Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty, 1520 Race Street,

At the Conference, advances and/or reimbursements will be available from the Conference Office, lobby floor, Holiday Inn, 4th and Arch Streets (Honorarium checks also will be provided from the Conference Office.)

We look forward to welcoming you in Philadelphia and to your contribution to the Conference. If you require further information or there is any way in which this office can be of assistance, please let me know.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,



Nancy L. Nolde
Executive Director

NLN:td
Enclosures

Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty

SEMINAR READING LISTS

Seminar - Free Exercise of Religion

- Berger, Peter Sacred Canopy Doubleday
- De Albornoz, Carrillo Religious Liberty Sheed and Ward, 1967
- Hudson, Winthrop Great Traditions of the American Churches Harper Bros
- Kelley, Dean Why Conservative Churches Are Growing Harper and Row, 1972
- Littell, Franklin From State Church to Pluralism Doubleday

Seminar - Religious and Ethnic Minorities

- Elazar, Daniel and Murray Friedman Ethnic Succession in America The Philadelphia School Story Institute of Human Relations Press, 1975 (Order from American Jewish Committee, 165 E 56th St, New York, N Y 10022)
- Friedman, Murray Overcoming Middle Class Rage Westminster Press
- Glazer, Nathan and Daniel Moynihan Beyond the Melting Pot M I T Press
- Greeley, Andrew Why Can't They Be Like Us? (Pamphlet) Institute of Human Relations Press (Order from American Jewish Committee--see above)

Seminar - Religious Liberty and Public Education

- American Association of School Administrators Religion in the Public Schools New York Harper and Row, 1964
- Boles, Donald E The Bible, Religion, and the Public Schools Ames, Iowa Iowa State University Press, 1963
- Dolbeare, Kenneth M and Phillip E Hammond The School Prayer Decisions From Court Policy to Local Practice Chicago University of Chicago Press, 1971
- Douglas, William O The Bible in the Schools Boston Little, Brown and Co, 1966
- Freund, Paul A and Robert Ulich Religion in the Public Schools Cambridge Harvard University Press, 1965
- Laubach, John H School Prayers Congress, the Courts, and the Public Washington, D C Public Affairs Press, 1969
- Religion in the Public School Classroom Washington, D C Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, 1975

SEMINAR READING LISTS

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Seminar - Civil Religion

- Benne, Robert and Philip Hefner Defining America A Christian Critique of the American Dream Philadelphia Fortress Press, 1974
- Ellul, Jacques The New Demons New York Seabury Press, 1975
- Lazareth, William, ed The Left Hand of God Philadelphia Fortress Press, 1976
- Mead, Sidney E The Nation With the Soul of a Church New York Harper Forum Books, 1975

Seminar - Mass Communication and Formation of Human Values

- Fore, William Image and Impact How Man Comes Through in the Mass Media New York Friendship Press
- Johnson, Nicholas How to Talk Back to Your Television Set Atlantic Monthly Press, 1970
- Shayon, Robert L The Crowd-Catchers - Introducing Television E P Dutton
- Shayon, Robert L Open to Criticism Beacon Press
- Skornia, Harry Television and Society McGraw Hill

Seminar - Conscience and the Limits of Civil Obedience

- Chazan, Barry L and Jonac F Soltis, eds Moral Education New York Teachers' College, 1973
- Childress, James F Civil Disobedience and Political Obligation New Haven Yale University Press, 1971
- Curatorium of the C G Jung Institute, ed Conscience Evanston Northwestern University Press, 1970
- Finn, James, ed A Conflict of Loyalties The Case for Selective Conscientious Objection New York Pegasus, 1969
- Long, Edward LeRoy War and Conscience in America Philadelphia Westminster, 1968
- Madison, James "Memorial and Remonstrance," in The Complete Madison, Saul K Padover, ed New York Harper, 1953
- MacIver, B M , ed Conflict of Loyalties Port Washington Kennikat, 1962

SEMINAR READING LISTS

Page 3

Murray, John Courtney "Selective Conscientious Objection " Huntington, Ind
Our Sunday Visitor, 1968

Potter, Ralph B , Jr War and Moral Discourse Richmond John Knox Press,
1968

Rohr, John A Prophets Without Honor Nashville Abingdon, 1971

Seminar - Genocide as National Policy and Resistance Thereto

Bedon, H A "Genocide in Vietnam? The Line Between Legal Argument and Moral
Judgment," Worldview 17 40-5 F '74

Dawidowicz The War Against the Jews, 1933-45 New York Holt, Rinehart, Win-
ston, 1975

De Riencourt, Amaury Sex and Power in History New York David McKay Co ,
1974

Safire, William "Mr Ford's Secret Sellout What Happened When Our Shah-
Forsaken Clients, the Kurds, Turned to the U S " New York Times, Feb 5,
1976

"Pious Platitudes About Genocide The U N Anti-Genocide Treaty " Christianity
Today 18 94 M 1 '74

Also suggested are United Nations publications on Genocide Convention and
encyclopedia articles on genocide, international crimes, human rights, and inter-
national law

Seminar - Rights of Privacy and Clergy Confidentiality

"The Right to Privacy " Church and Society, November-December 1974 New York
United Presbyterian Church U S A

Miller, Arthur R The Assault on Privacy University of Michigan Press, 1971

Raines, John Attack on Privacy Judson Press, 1974

Westin and Baker Databanks in a Free Society Quadrangle Books, 1972

Seminar - Aging and Rights of Conscience

Adler, Joan The Retirement Book New York William Morrow & Co , Inc

Butler, Robert N , M D Why Survive Being Old in America? New York Harper and
Row

Tournier, Paul Learning to Grow Old London Student Christian Movement, Ltd

Seminar - Religious Liberty and International Affairs

Bates, M Searle Religious Liberty An Inquiry. International Missionary Council, 1945

Moskowitz, Moses Human Rights and World Order Oceana, 1968

Murray, John Courtney, S J We Hold These Truths Sheed and Ward, 1960

Nolde, O Frederick Free and Equal World Council of Churches, 1968

The United Nations and Human Rights U N Office of Public Information, 1973

Seminar - The Military/Industrial Complex and the Concerned Conscience

Lakey, George. Taking Apart the War Machine Whole issue of WIN Magazine
Available from WIN, Box 547, Rifton, N Y 12471, @ \$ 30

Boserup, Anders and Andrew Mack War Without Weapons Schocken, 1975

Pleck, Joseph H and Jack Sawyer, eds Men and Masculinity Englewood Cliffs,
N J Prentice-Hall, 1974

Taylor, Richard K Economics and the Gospel United Church Press, 1974

Seminar - Medical Ethics and Rights of Conscience

Jakobovits, Immanuel Jewish Medical Ethics Bloch Publishing Co , 1975

Katz, Jay and Alexander Capron Catastrophic Diseases Who Decides What?
Russell Sage Foundation, 1975

Moonan, John, ed The Morality of Abortion Legal and Historical Perspective.
Harvard University Press, 1970

Ramsey, Paul The Patient as Person Yale University Press, 1970

Tancredi, Laurence, ed Ethics of Health Care National Academy of Sciences, 1973

Journal of Current Social Issues Fall 1975, special issue on medical ethics
New York United Church of Christ

(Addendum to follow)

ADDENDUM TO
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Seminar - Women's Liberation and the Rights of Conscience

Hageman, Alice. Sexist Religion and Women in the Church - No More Silence New York
Association Press, 1975

Kepler, Patricia Budd The Liberation of God (article enclosed)

_____. Theology, Sexism, and the Family. (article enclosed)

Language About God - Opening the Door Published by Advisory Council on Disciple-
ship, United Presbyterian Church in the USA, 475 Riverside Drive, New York,
N Y 10027

Liberation Theology Human Hope Confronts Christian History and American Power
New York Paulist Press, 1972

Ruether, Rosemary B. Religion and Sexism - Images of Women in Jewish and Christian
Traditions New York Simon and Shuster

Rozak, Theodore. Masculinity and Femininity Harper and Row, 1970

Women, The Women's Movement, and the Future of the Church Pro Mundi Vita Bulletin
(article enclosed)

Seminar - Prophecy

Blank, Sheldon H Understanding the Prophets Union of American Hebrew Con-
gregations, 1969

Cavanaugh, J The Quaker Approach to Contemporary Problems Putnam, 1953

Heschel, Abraham J The Prophets Harper & Pow, 1962

Hyatt, J Philip Prophetic Religion Avingdon-Cokesbury, 1947

Interpreting the Prophetic Tradition Hebrew Union College Press, 1968 Intro-
duction by Harry M Orlinsky

Judaism and Social Problems Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1962 Edited
by E J Lipman and A Vorspan

Scott, Robert B Y The Relevance of the Prophets Macmillan, 1968

Silver, Daniel J Judaism and Ethics Ktav, 1970

Vorspan, A Jewish Values and Social Crisis Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
1968

The Book of Jeremiah from the Bible

Op-Ed page of the New York Times, and "your favorite radical journal "

Gausted, Edwin S Dissent in American Religion. University of Chicago Press, 1973

Seminar - Religious Liberty and Private Education

Bloom, Virgil Education Freedom and Competition Argus Communications Co , 1967

Healey, Robert M The French Achievement Private School Aid - A Lesson for America Paulist Press, 1975

Kauper, Paul Frontiers of Constitutional Liberty University of Michigan Press, 1956

Keim Compulsory Education and the Amish Beacon Press, 1974

LaNoue, George R Public Funds for Parochial Schools National Council of Churches, 1963 (enclosed)

O'Brien, J Stephen, and Richard S Vacca The Supreme Court and the Religion-Education Controversy a Tightrope to Entanglement Moore Publishing Co , 1974

Pfeffer, Leo Church, State and Freedom, rev ed Beacon Press, 1967

Pfeffer, Leo God, Caesar and the Constitution The Court as Referee of Church/State Confrontation Beacon Press, 1975

Public Education and Student Conscience A Dilemma for Concerned Citizens Statement by Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Publishers, 1976



Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty
1520 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19102
Phone 215/563/2036



NOTE The material attached was prepared on the basis of discussions of the Conference Planning Committee seeking to define broad general areas of study in each Seminar. It is not intended as either exhaustive or binding.

Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty
1520 Race Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19102
Phone 215/563/2036

SEMINAR - FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION

The cornerstone of religious liberty in this nation is the theological and political concept we define as separation of church and state. Its history flows from two parallel quests: the search of religious dissenters for the freedom to practice their religion denied them in their own countries and the struggle of non-religious or anti-religious intellectuals and others against the religiously motivated positions of their governments. Its concept recognizes that the compulsory function of government cannot be merged with the voluntary nature of religion because to do so would undermine democratic decision-making and compromise individual conscience.

In application of the separation principle, however, it is not always clear what the Founding Fathers had in mind. Scholars suggest that there will never be a final resolution of church/state issues because the matter is more a question of historical understanding than of technical law. The best defense of religious liberty is seen as the religious organizations of the nation going about their business with purpose and independence. Some issues and questions

Taxation Under present policies, some religious organizations accept substantial government subsidies in the form of tax concessions. Others have misused their tax privileges by engaging in business ventures in competition with businesses which must pay taxes. Still others violate the principle of separation by accepting community services paid for by tax dollars. A related concern is government use of the power of taxation to influence legislation. How serious are these violations of the separation principle? Should more stringent measures be taken to stop them? Or would such action become a matter of unjustified state interference? What guidelines can be developed and who would be proper parties to this endeavor?

Deprogramming Are the interests of religious liberty more specifically served by the young people of the Children of God and similar sects who resist deprogramming or by their parents who seek to "rescue" them?

Military chaplaincy Does historical practice justify continuation of this arrangement? To what extent does it violate the separation principle? Should individual religious bodies be charged with this responsibility? Would the concept be better served if chaplains remained as civilians?

Adoption Courts' insistence that adoptive parents be the same religion as the natural parents raises numerous questions about the free exercise of religion.

SEMINAR - RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

In the first two centuries of this nation's life America was seen as a giant melting pot. Recognition in recent decades that this is a pluralistic society severely jolted widely held assumptions. People began to discard the assimilation

concept and to take a more realistic view of the immense ethnic, racial, cultural, and religious diversity of the nation. Blacks, American Indians, Spanish-speaking people, and other minorities have become increasingly articulate and active in combating the injustices visited upon them by the monopolistic theory.

QUESTIONS How can religious organizations cooperate to affirm the uniqueness of individual ethnic and religious groups in a pluralistic society? How does pluralism intensify religious liberty problems? How ease them? How have religious organizations in the past used their power to defeat civil justice To defend it?

SEMINAR - RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

The ruling of the Supreme Court banning prayer and Bible reading in public school continues a matter of intense public concern. To some, the decision seems based on a determination to eradicate America's memory of its religious heritage and open the doors to the teaching of "scientism" and other secular values. Others see it as a fundamental bulwark in the defense of the principle of radical separation of church and state. Sporadic attempts to pass a "prayer amendment" which would authorize recitation of "non-denominational" prayers have been opposed by nearly every major religious denomination as a violation of the religious liberty of children. Despite the ban, public schools in many areas continue daily prayers and Bible readings.

QUESTIONS Are practices of Bible reading and scripture reading in public schools serious First Amendment violations? If so, should there be increased efforts to stop them? Could an emphasis upon the distinction between the practice of religion and the study of religion open the way to a solution? What would be acceptable guidelines for development of such studies? Who would be the proper parties to such an enterprise? What should be the role of religious institutions in this situation?

SEMINAR - RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND PRIVATE EDUCATION

In a landmark case last May (*Meek vs Pittenger*), the Supreme Court raised anew the issue of church/state relations in education in striking down as a First Amendment violation the system in Pennsylvania of providing "auxiliary services" to non-public schools. The issue raises serious doubts about the constitutionality of similar "auxiliary services" funded by government in Pennsylvania and elsewhere and a host of potential problems.

QUESTIONS Is the provision of auxiliary services a violation of the separation principle? What are the rights of minority groups taxpayers (e.g. Roman Catholics) as over against those of the religious majority? What will happen to the quality of education in public schools if private schools close and channel their students into public schools? What should be the attitude of religious bodies? How can they work together most effectively to meet needs and ease tensions?

Another issue involving private education concerns the exclusion of minority group members on the basis of their religious beliefs, e.g., Bob Jones

University Most of these institutions receive indirectly at least some tax benefits

QUESTION Is religious liberty violated or supported in such a situation?

SEMINAR - CIVIL RELIGION

Official manifestations of religion in public life range from the printing of the words "In God We Trust" on our coins, to the use of prayer in the inaugural of public officials, to Sunday worship services in the White House. Some religious leaders and others see these practices as evidences of moral strength and a sure sign that "God is on our side." Others view the practices as a serious First Amendment violation and a dangerous evil in which the nation itself becomes the standard of its own morality.

QUESTIONS How did religious symbols shape the political and economic development of this nation? Which symbols were emphasized and which were ignored and with what consequence? How did political and economic realities in turn affect the religious ethos? What lessons can we learn from past instances in which nationalist enthusiasm has dimmed the voice of conscience and made the State the ultimate good? How can religious institutions best use their resources to guard against evils of national arrogance which deny the hope of the Founding Fathers that this nation would be "a defender of freedom" and "an enemy of oppression?"

SEMINAR - CONSCIENCE AND THE LIMITS OF CIVIL OBEDIENCE

The guarantees of religious liberty and freedom of conscience embodied in the Declaration of Independence and other fundamental national documents reflect the basic concept of personal dignity, integrity, and inviolability which are the heritage of our Judeo-Christian traditions. While U S courts have been careful to define religious liberty in negative terms, it can also be understood as the affirmation of the rights of the individual alone and in community to make ultimate commitments and to witness to those commitments. Confrontation, therefore, with forces which undermine these rights becomes inevitable. The most notable recent history of the use of civil disobedience tactics to achieve responsible social goals were that of Dr. Martin Luther King and the anti-Vietnam war demonstrations.

QUESTIONS What constitutes an "unjust law"? What criteria can be advanced as a guide in determining when civil disobedience is a necessary form of action? Should it always be the last resort? Is present legislation too lenient in dealing with instances of "disobedience"? Too strict? How can Americans disagree with each other in motives and expectations while at the same time cooperating to build a more just society? What should be the ministry of religious organizations to dissidents? Should religious organizations themselves ever practice civil disobedience?

SEMINAR - RIGHTS OF PRIVACY AND CLERGY CONFIDENTIALITY

In perhaps no other area recently has public outrage been so specifically focused as in revelations that government agencies have used their powers to collect information and spy upon citizens who hold so-called "questionable" views.

Religious organizations and leaders especially, have been the targets of these investigations. Recent disclosures indicate, for instance, that the CIA has infiltrated and used the overseas mission agencies of the Protestant and Catholic Churches for its own purposes - especially in Latin America. (Essentially this practice allegedly has followed one of more of these aspects - CIA use of missionaries as voluntary spies or conduits for funds, CIA manipulation of church persons without their knowledge, CIA harassment of church people with "dangerous" views.) While the most flagrant violations appear to be ended, the issue is one of continuing concern especially for those groups and individuals in society who see their role as prophetic.

QUESTIONS How essential is privacy to the individual? Why? Are there instances in which invasion of privacy is legitimate? What guidelines can be used to determine these? To what extent should religious organizations cooperate or not cooperate with government agencies in this area? What is the responsibility of religious organizations to those whose rights of privacy are jeopardized or threatened?

How can religious organizations most effectively guard against unjustified interference by the state? Are there instances in which such actions by the state are justified? What are the moral and ethical issues involved in a church person working covertly for a government agency? What is the responsibility of religious organizations to clarify and promote these issues to the general public?

SEMINAR - WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND THE RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE

Sexism has been described "as any attitude, action, or institutional structure which systematically subordinates a person or group on grounds of sex." But the word has only recently come into use. Equality of the sexes was not a concern of the Founding Fathers. The promises of the American dream were valid only for the white Anglo-Saxon male. Social, economic, and political structures have made women "second class citizens" throughout American history, thereby denying them freedom of action and association which are the natural derivatives of liberty of conscience. Nowhere has this been truer than in religious institutions.

QUESTIONS What are the moral, ethical, and social issues of the women's movement for equality in society? How can equality and non-discrimination in law be translated into equality in fact? How can both men and women be helped to change their stereotyped ideas of sex roles and attitudes? Are women the best ones to solve their own problems? Is women's liberation a movement against men or a move towards achievement of wholeness in society? What is the role of the religious institutions?

SEMINAR - MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND THE FORMATION OF HUMAN VALUES

The concentration of economic power in a highly technical era has created a society characterized by mass production, mass distribution, and mass consumption. Handmaiden to this sequence is mass media advertising which provides the financial undergirding for, and implicitly and explicitly controls, the editorial content of mass media channels of television, radio, and print. Thus the values of consumerism become a primary message reaching the American public. Other messages to a large

extent are muted or lost. Passivity and the perpetuation of a host of stereotypes are reinforced and the possibilities for sharing of knowledge and a range of views are submerged in the over-riding concerns of small groups in control.

At the same time, although the worse excesses of the Watergate era appear to have been corrected, the government continues its system of "controlled" news. Americans, by and large, learn about their government, particularly concerning overseas involvements, what it wants them to know. Thus they are denied access to accurate information which is essential for liberty of conscience.

QUESTIONS In what way does the monopoly of mass media power threaten basic institutions in a free society? What alternatives to monopoly power are feasible? What are the moral and ethical issues involved in this area? What are the implications for, and responsibilities of, religious organizations? What are the rights of the advertisers? Would they be infringed?

SEMINAR - GENOCIDE AS NATIONAL POLICY AND RESISTANCE THERETO

All early religions were systems for producing divine sanctions for cementing society and reinforcing the status quo. Religious rites were used as a means of tricking the gods into fulfilling this role.

The development of the Jewish religion (the Covenant) represented a radical break in this tradition. However, whenever the ambiguities of life become too overwhelming or nations or community of persons come under particular pressures, they are tempted to revert to the pattern of the early religions and ask the gods to serve their particular needs.

The Crusades represented this response in the Middle Ages. In the 20th Century, the pattern is continued in the murder of more than half of the Armenian Christian community, of six million Jews, and in mass slaughter in the Sudan and Uganda, among other places.

Genocide and its related evils of repression and persecution is the ultimate pathological opposite of the concept of soul liberty - the term used by William Penn to describe the right of the person, individually and in community, to make ultimate commitments and to witness to those commitments.

SEMINAR - THE AGING AND RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE

Every day 4,100 men and women become "senior citizens" and for many of them the advent of their 65th birthday means that their lives become hedged about by social, economic, and other structures of the system which seriously impinge upon their rights of freedom of conscience, and the freedom of action and association which are its derivatives. Most notable are the changes in life styles required by mandatory retirement.

QUESTIONS Does society have an obligation to keep qualified people in the working force after age 65? Are the social and economic problems resulting from retirement the responsibility of voluntary organizations or government? In what areas should there be cooperation? Are any areas exclusively and obviously the responsibility of one or the other? Should the government subsidize voluntary organizations for the care of the elderly?

SEMINAR - VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS AND ECONOMIC POWER STRUCTURES

Liberty of conscience depends upon there being a sufficiently diverse distribution of power in a society in order that dissenting opinion has a chance to be heard and is not immediately crushed into obscurity or silence. Without this possibility, discussion and dissent can never move from the level of abstract discussion into the actual practice and public policy of the everyday world. In this last quarter of the 20th century, the tremendous concentration of power in national government and giant multi-national corporations brings into serious question whether this nation's checks and balances system is still sufficiently healthy to insure the rights of conscience.

QUESTIONS Is there sufficiently wide and diverse distribution of power in the United States to guard the concrete effectiveness of religious liberty and freedom of conscience? What are the moral and ethical issues involved in unlimited growth and gigantic size? How can more effective controls be exercised of U S corporations whose international operations jeopardize freedom of conscience in overseas countries? Should the United Nations be party to the control of multi-national corporations? What are the implications of the Fourteenth Amendment's creation of a fictional "person" (i.e., the corporation) for First Amendment guarantees? What are the implications for religious and other voluntary organizations in the present situation in which the U S tax structure tends to penalize middle and lower income classes thereby reducing their powers of discretionary giving to such organizations? How can religious institutions best aid those whose rights of protest and dissent have been violated or curtailed as a result of this situation?

SEMINAR - RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Even a superficial glance over the world scene reveals the tragedy of daily new violations of religious liberty. Apartheid, racial discrimination in varying forms, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, curtailment of religious liberty - these and many other perversions reflect disregard and contempt for human dignity and erode the foundations of freedom, justice and peace. Some progress has been made in the development of international responsibility for the promotion of and respect for human rights in the growing sense of the inter-relationship of all peoples and in the recognition that what happens in one part of the world vitally affects all other parts. American religious organizations have played an important role in promoting concern for rights abroad to the American public.

QUESTIONS What is the relationship between religious liberty and other rights? What limitations should be placed on their exercise? What international standards and safeguards are available to protect rights? Is it possible to develop an international ethos concerning these rights? What has been/should be the role of U S religious organizations particularly with a view to articulating the "conscience of mankind"?

SEMINAR - THE MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND THE CONCERNED CONSCIENCE

Democracy's severest problems arise when differences or dissent appear to jeopardize national safety or unity. Thus a distinction must be made between

legitimate demands of conscience and the obligations of the citizen to the state and nation, and between a transcendent religious orientation which is absolute and the basic claims of a civil government to patriotic loyalty and obedience to the laws of the land

QUESTIONS How can objective guidelines be developed for determining the good faith, i.e., the "conscientiousness" of the objector? Of the 124,000 men covered by President Ford's amnesty plan, more than 100,000 have yet to seek clemency? Is blanket amnesty the answer? Or should some program of conditional and selective amnesty be sought? Who would be hurt if amnesty were granted? Should the fact that a war is "popular" or "unpopular", or that it is "defensive" or "offensive" be a determining factor? If a personal decision that a given war is "wrong" is sufficient to permit a single individual to declare it null and void, what happens to representative government and to the Constitution itself? What are the implications for national defense? What are the responsibilities of the nation's religious organizations in this regard?

Do conscientious objectors have the right to withhold the percentage of their taxes which would be used for war purposes? Can the government require pacifist groups, e.g., the Society of Friends, to withhold federal income taxes from the salaries of its employees? How far can the State move in such areas without jeopardizing sanctity of conscience?

SEMINAR - MEDICAL ETHICS AND RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE

New scientific discoveries, new laws and new practices raise daily new issues relating to the ethics of medical and scientific practice and rights of the individual conscience. The Karen Quinlan case made euthanasia a front page issue. Right to Life groups fight the Supreme Court rule permitting abortion, while feminist groups wage campaigns to maintain it and keep it from being modified. Other areas of increasing concern deal with organ transplants and "unnecessary surgery", behavior control, genetic engineering, and counseling.

QUESTIONS What are the guidelines for limitations of use of scientific discoveries? Does the medical profession develop ethical standards apart from those of, or does it reflect, those of society? Are medical ethics "relative"? Who should make the decisions about what constitutes a "bearable life"? Who should bear the costs of extended illnesses? What are the issues involved in "death with dignity"? When does a patient have the right to refuse life-extending treatment? Is the fetus human? Does it have rights?

SEMINAR - PROPHECY

Religious liberty has two dimensions - the negative fostered in decisions of the U.S. courts and the positive seen as the affirmation of the right of the independent conscience. Confrontation with any force which violates this right (soul liberty) is inevitable. In the civil sphere, dissent from the restrictions and injustices of the status quo is termed civil disobedience. In the religious community - prophecy.

One dramatic expression of prophecy surfaced in the experience of the Puritans who felt called to speak out the truth as they saw it, regardless of

the consequences. The tradition continued with Quakers who were moved to disturb the peace of Anglican services, particularly such persons as William Penn, George Fox, and Elizabeth Fairfax.

In the Twentieth Century the spirit of prophecy has been expressed as a sign of the unbreakable conscience in the lives of such men as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Franz Jägerstätter and others who were martyrs of Nazism.

Other contemporary instances include that of James Forman calling for rights of Black people from the pulpit of Riverside Church and the ordination of eleven Episcopal women in Philadelphia in 1974. Issues of prophecy involve the very future of the religious community because they inevitably speak to issues of spiritual life and death.





BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

1520 RACE STREET ★ PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 19102 ★ TELEPHONE (215) 563 2036

An Inter Faith Bicentennial Program of The Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia and The Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia

December 30, 1975

Mr. Milton Himmelfarb
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Himmelfarb:

We write to invite you to attend the national Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty to be held April 25-30, 1976, in Philadelphia, under the auspices of the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia representing Protestant and Orthodox churches, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia.

To our knowledge, this will be the only national meeting of this scope dealing with First Amendment guarantees of religious liberty and freedom of conscience scheduled during the Bicentennial Year. The Conference has been officially recognized by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration and Philadelphia '76, Inc.

The program will include addresses by outstanding scholars on topics concerned with the foundations, history, contemporary situation, and future prospects for religious liberty. Sixteen seminars will deal with a range of related issues.

Conference members will be 400 persons from Philadelphia and other parts of the nation--including scholars, clergy, historians, lawyers, educators, rights activists, community leaders, and others--invited to attend by the sponsors.

Aware of your interest in the area of Conference concerns, we extend to you a cordial invitation to participate. We believe the Conference will make a significant and far-reaching contribution to scholarly re-examination and re-assessment of religious liberty and renewed commitment to its support. We shall welcome your participation in this endeavor and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Morris V. Dembowitz *Martin N. Lohmuller* *John C. Shetler*
Rabbi Morris V. Dembowitz Bishop Martin N. Lohmuller Dr. John C. Shetler
President Vicar General Chairman
Board of Rabbis Archdiocese of Philadelphia Metropolitan Christian
Council of Philadelphia

Enclosures

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
(Preliminary List)

William B Ball, Esq , Harrisburg Constitutional lawyer

Dr Eugene Carson Blake, immediate past General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, now President of "Bread for the World"

Dr Robert McAfee Brown, Professor of Religious Studies, Stanford University, California

Dr R H Edwin Espy, Chairman of Project F O R W A R D '76, Bicentennial Project of the Interchurch Center, former General Secretary of the National Council of Churches

Mr John T Gurash, Chairman of the Board, Insurance Company of North America

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America

His Eminence John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia

Dr Robert J Marshall, President, Lutheran Church in America, New York

Bernard G Segal, Esq , former President of the American Bar Association, Philadelphia

Douglas V Steere, T Wistar Brown Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania

Rabbi Marc H Tanenbaum, National Director of the Inter-religious Affairs Department, American Jewish Committee, New York

Mr William P Thompson, Stated Clerk, United Presbyterian Church in the USA, New York

Dr Cynthia C Wedel, Associate Director of the Center for a Volunteer Society, Washington, D C

Dr Robert V Moss, President, United Church of Christ, New York

Rabbi: 'Catholics Must Be Heard On School Aid'

Persons who disregard out of hand the feelings of Catholic parents on the nonpublic school aid question are failing in moral responsibility, a noted Jewish leader said here last week

Rabbi Marc H Tanenbaum national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) said it is time to listen to and dialogue with Catholic parents and to find what we can do positively ' to aid them

It bothers me terribly that many good Catholic people friends and neighbors and parents of children who are friends of my children feel they are being dealt with unfairly by American society Rabbi Tanenbaum said at the Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty here

Many of the Catholic parents I know are middle class people with limited financial resources who are having a difficult time making ends meet

All of them pay taxes which go to support the public education system and they carry the additional burden of having to pay added tuition for their parochial school

He said he knew from personal experience that the anger and resentment of Catholic parents are real

From an ecumenical and interreligious perspective and for me personally it is a failure of moral responsibility to be indifferent to these honest feelings of Catholic parents and simply to continue to say no to them by engaging only in support of amicus briefs that result in denial of any financial relief to these hard pressed people

Rabbi Tanenbaum noted that the Philadelphia chapter of the AJC has recently come out in support of the nonpublic school auxiliary services law of Pennsylvania The new AJC policy now supports educationally diagnostic and remedial" services such as guidance counseling testing and services for the improvement of the educationally disadvantaged as long as they are provided outside the nonpublic school

It is a matter for Catholic educators to determine what measures are required to reduce their costs of running their schools ' he added But that does not absolve any of us outside of the Catholic community from remaining indifferent to the quality of education the health and welfare that affects the lives of 15 million children who happen to be Catholic "

—BOB ZYSKOWSKI

(Photo by Robert S. Harvey)

WILLIAM B BALL constitutional lawyer from Harrisburg told participants in the Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty last week that religious liberty in education was declining and threatened with extinction Friday Rabbi Marc H Tanenbaum (directly behind Ball) said others must not be indifferent to the honest feelings of Catholic parents who feel wronged by the American system with regard to nonpublic school aid

Rabbi Asks National Dialogue on Abortion

PHILADELPHIA (RNS)—A prominent rabbi has urged that interreligious leaders find a way to "de-sectarianize" right to life issues and issues and promote a national dialogue on their moral implications.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director for interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee, made the appeal in a paper on "Contemporary Issues of Church-State Relations" given at the Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty here.

Discussing what he called "the Catholic agenda" in the United States, Rabbi Tanenbaum asserted that right to life issues and aid to parochial schools have in fact been projected to the nation as the Catholic equivalent to what Israel and Soviet Jewry mean to American Jews.

He commented that "the right to life issues are profoundly moral, theological questions which presuppose a specific theological and doctrinal commitment, Israel and Soviet Jewry are far more human rights and national self-determination issues which do not require theological assent as preconditions for support."

For years Rabbi Tanenbaum claimed, "Catholic leadership has publicly advocated the abortion and other right to life

issues as Catholic issues. These have become rallying points involving Catholic identity and in effect the mobilization of Catholic peoplehood."

According to the American Jewish Committee leader, the effect of that formulation of issues is that if they are perceived in the popular mind as "Catholic issues" they need not necessarily be "Protestant" or "Jewish" or broadly "American" issues.

(Asked later about the emphasis being given by the U.S. Catholic Conference and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to the idea that abortion is not an exclusively Catholic issue, Rabbi Tanenbaum said he felt that was a relatively recent emphasis on the part of Catholic Church officials.)

Rabbi Tanenbaum called on "interreligious statesmanship" to "de-sectarianize the right to life issues and find creative ways to engage thoughtful, caring Americans of all religious traditions in a national dialogue whose ultimate end must be a movement to humanize the human condition."

With regard to aid to parochial schools, Rabbi Tanenbaum affirmed his commitment to the principle of church-state separation, but said he empathized with the position of many Catholics

Tax aid a matter of religious liberty? Abortion? Conference hears all sides

By Rick Casey
NCR Special Correspondent

PHILADELPHIA — Catholic and other parents who want to send their children to parochial schools should receive tax aid as a matter of religious liberty. Catholic church efforts to seek a constitutional amendment restricting abortions are a violation of the religious liberty of others.

These contrasting propositions, forcefully argued by two different speakers in a spare, 172-year-old Quaker meeting house here, were testimony to the fact that 200 years after the founding of the first nation which prohibited state religion, important issues of religious liberty remain unsettled.

The occasion was a National Conference on Religious Liberty, co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia, the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia.

About 300 persons from around the country discussed issues ranging from



BALL — NCR photo by Rick Casey

"deprogramming" of young people involved in unfamiliar sects to the holocaust of six million Jews under Nazi Germany.

The case for church school aid as a matter of religious liberty was made by William Ball, a prominent Catholic lawyer from Harrisburg, Pa., who has handled religious liberty cases involving Amish and evangelical parents who object to public schooling for their children.

Ball's arguments drew a measure of sympathy, if not wholehearted support, from some liberal Protestants who are disenchanted with public schools.

In the conference's keynote address, Dr.

Franklin Littell, professor of religion at Temple University, Philadelphia, told of attending his daughter's graduation ceremony which included hymns he described as "patriotic chauvinism of the worst sort."

"I would much rather have my daughter graduate from an orthodox Jewish or a very conservative Catholic school than one which gives forth this mishmash of religion," he said. "There is an arrogance on the part of the public school authorities which indicates that they have lost sight of the fact that education is primarily a matter for the parents and the family. The children do not belong to the state."

The Rev. Dean Kelley, executive for religious liberty at the National Council of Churches, called the issue raised by Ball "one of the most pervasive unsolved problems of religious liberty the nation faces."

Ball noted that a major reason Catholic school systems had been established was the Protestant control of public schools. He cited an 1859 case in which a Boston court upheld a public school teacher who had beat with a stick the hands of an 11-year-old Catholic boy for a half hour, offering to stop as soon as the boy agreed to recite the Protestant version of the 10 commandments.

While such an occurrence is unlikely now, Ball said what he called the "religion" of secular humanism is every bit as obnoxious to some religious parents as was the Protestantism of public schools to the Boston boy, his parents and priest.

In addition, while earlier generations could establish church schools, said Ball, inflation, increased taxation and state-enforced standards for schools make this alternative increasingly difficult.

He cited the case of a group of parents who were convicted of criminal violations because they insisted on sending their children to their own Bible-oriented school, which did not meet some 600 regulations included in a volume presented to them by the state department of education.

The school, said Ball, was producing children who scored above average on national tests, but failed to provide such requirements as a multi-media library staffed by a certified operator and to teach required curricula in social studies, health and citizenship, the contents of which the parents found against their religious beliefs.

"In the trial the prosecution repeatedly pointed out that the school was 'unchartered,' that is was not in compliance with the 600 'minimum standards,'" said Ball.

"The pastor-principal, on the stand,

again and again tried to explain that he did not want a charter since a charter would signify the school's agreement with all of the standards, some of which were religiously unacceptable."

Ball said the case is on appeal.

Concern for the feelings of parents such as those spoken of by Ball was expressed by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national inter-religious affairs director for the American Jewish Committee.

Speaking of Catholic school parents who feel they are being treated unfairly, Tanenbaum said, "It is a failure of moral responsibility to be indifferent to these honest feelings of Catholic parents, and simply to

"What do Russia and China have in common today? They both hate Jews," he said. "What did Martin Luther and the pope have in common? Their hatred of Jews."

Noting that recent discussion has focused on how so many Jews could go passively to their deaths, Wiesel asked, "How do you explain how so many killers remained Christians?"

Several speakers praised the conference as the sort of serious appraisal the bicentennial ought to foster, rather than the jingoistic national and religious exercises that are expected to predominate. By way of example, Tanenbaum displayed a knit red, white and blue skullcap that was presented to him recently.



MATTER OF OPINION: A listener responds to Potter, center, Hesburgh. — RNS

continue to say no to them by engaging only in support of *amicus* (friend of the court) briefs that result in denial of any financial relief."

He said the American Jewish Committee now is seeking ways of finding constitutional aid to Catholic schools and has supported an auxiliary services bill in Pennsylvania.

It was Tanenbaum who raised abortion politics as a religious liberty issue.

A constitutional amendment being pressed by the Catholic church, he said, "would result in the imposition of a sectarian morality on the society at large."

"It is a Catholic version of the temperance struggle," he said. "You can impose a moral position on a society, but if it is not based on a substantial moral consensus it is only an external victory."

Although it doesn't affect as many people as the school aid and abortion questions, Kelley suggested that the "most acute" religious liberty issue today is "deprogramming."

Kelley cited the activities of Ted Patrick, who has been hired by parents to snatch their children from such groups as the Children of God and the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification church. Patrick's methods often involve what Kelley called "kidnapping" and days of a barrage of psychological pressure tactics applied against the young person's will.

Noting that Patrick defends his practices by charging the sects with brainwashing and that several courts have dismissed kidnapping charges against him, Kelley said, "The problem is that there is proof of what Patrick is doing. There is as yet no proof that the religious groups are doing what he says they are."

Conference participants focused on religious liberty problems around the world, as well as in the United States.

Elie Wiesel, a writer who survived Nazi concentration camps, spoke of the holocaust and the forces that led to it.

The conference featured some guerrilla theater on torture of political prisoners in Latin America, and an unusual daily luncheon service, served by a politically-oriented collective known as "The Fatted Sprout," which provides simple meals for conferences, weddings and other gatherings.

The only hint of jingoism came in a speech by Father Theodore Hesburgh, president of the University of Notre Dame, who called it "a curious paradox that America is one of the most criticized countries on earth, especially if one listens to UN debates, and yet, at the same time, America is the country which most people would prefer to live in if they were free to choose."

Hesburgh talked of slavery and racism as tragic flaws in the United States, but concluded, "One would hope that America, the nation the most varied in population, most endowed by the perennial promise of its founding documents, most affluent in resources, most powerful in arms; most committed to world peace and freedom, might find some new expression to inspire and lead the world at our present sad juncture, just as it did in 1776 when conditions for human freedom and dignity were appreciably worse, though less widely known and lamented."

Dr. Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, disagreed.

"America did set a pattern for many other countries," he said. "I would say that what Father Hesburgh said was true at the end of World War II. I'm not sure now. The deep contradictions within America itself and with the rest of the world have to be faced."

In an address to the conference, Potter cited Korea and nations in Latin America where "many Christians have been imprisoned, tortured and even killed because of the exercise of their religious liberty for the sake of the poor and oppressed," and added that "the U.S. government and U.S. multi-national and other enterprises have appeared to undergird oppressive regimes which flagrantly violate human rights including religious liberty."

U.S. government spied on church groups, clergy

WASHINGTON (NC) — Church groups and clergymen — particularly those involved in the pro-civil rights or antiwar movements — are among several hundred thousand Americans who have been under surveillance by federal agencies, according to a Senate report.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, in its final report, "Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans," said its investigation established that "the targets of intelligence activity have ranged far beyond persons who could properly be characterized as enemies of freedom and have extended to a wide array of citizens engaging in lawful activity."

"The government has often undertaken the secret surveillance of citizens on the basis of their political beliefs even when the beliefs posed no threat of violence or on behalf of a hostile foreign power," the report said.

and tighter controls are in place," the report said, "intelligence activities threaten

to undermine our democratic society and fundamentally alter its nature."

Religious groups, such as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, "Associated Catholic Charities" (possibly Baltimore, but the report was unclear) and the lay-edited Catholic magazine *Commonweal* were on an "enemies list" of organizations to be given special attention by a special Internal Revenue Service unit.

Clergymen and religious organizations were also victims of government "dirty tricks." The American Friends (Quakers) Service Committee was on a list of organizations and individuals targeted by the CIA and FBI to have their foreign mail opened and inspected.

In describing efforts by the FBI to contact employers or funding organizations to have targeted individuals fired, the report said, "For example, priests who allowed their churches to be used for the Black Panther breakfast programs were targeted, and anonymous letters were sent to their bishops."