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

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 78, Folder 14, Anti-abortion, 1975.

Speaks to Catholic Educators in A.C.

Rabbi Slams 'Indifference'

By JOHN ROAK
Press Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — With "callousness, indifference and almost coziness," American Christians and Jews have responded to some monumental tragedies in recent times, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum said here Monday.

The rabbi, National Inter-religious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, was the keynote speaker of the 72nd annual convention of the National Catholic Education Association which convened in Convention Hall.

He referred to the recent killing of 15,000 black Christians in Uganda and the killing of one million persons in Sudan.

He said that, at this moment, 400 million people are starving and 10,000 dying of hunger daily.

"Indeed 13 million persons in the United States continue to go to bed every night hungry," he said.

The theme of the speech was "Seeking A Just Society."

Rabbi Tanenbaum said the Jews have suffered the "trauma of abandonment" and intend not to let it happen

again. Before World War II, when Hitler's intentions toward the Jews became clear, no one — not governments, churches or labor unions — came to their aid, he said.

As Jews are concerned about the Middle East, persons of Irish descent should be similarly concerned about what is going on in Northern

Ireland he said.

"Look at what Greek Americans did," he said: through their pressure aid to Turkey was ended.

The rabbi hailed Catholics for their "reverence for life" in their opposition to abortion. They are asserting the dignity of humanity against the present trend toward dehumanization, he said.

He also hailed Father Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University, for mobilizing Catholics and Protestants and "grabbing Congress by the lapels" about the need for a \$1.5 billion food aid bill.

He hailed a group of sisters in Washington who have undertaken to understand the intricacies of how our government works and how they can effect change.

"No longer can it be said that nuns are just to be patted on the head and have their pictures taken," he said.

Noting that the United States has sold \$86 billion worth of arms to foreign governments since 1950, Tanenbaum assailed the U.S. government for being the world's largest arms merchant.

"Is it right for a world community unable to feed all its people to spend so much on weapons?" he asked. "The arms trade can scarcely advance peace."

In each of the 60 military conflicts since World War II, the rabbi said, imported weapons were used almost exclusively to bring death to 10 million people.

"Until we have a bona fide world police force, it's still Dodge City and everyone wants a rifle over his door,"

During our lifetime economic growth is going to taper off, the rabbi said. There will be tremendous problems within and among nations.

Nations will have to share resources in a static economy and this may lead to wars of redistribution. Only an authoritarian or possibly a revolutionary regime may be up to the task of social reorganization in order to escape catastrophe.

Our whole industrial society may give way to one with less stress on technology, production and consumption, he said. In their place traditional ritual, religion, village and more humane communities will result. There will be more attention to frugality and, to artistic,

spiritual and political pursuits.

Tanenbaum cited as prototype communities of the future the kibbutzim in Israel and small groups of Christians that have formed on university campuses, livable groups with a shared purpose.

In the future pleasure will be sought in simple but plentiful things such as sunsets, music, family, love, joy, song, prayer and peace, he said.

He said the primary issue for Christians and Jews is seeking a just society.

"Let us join hands to restore the sanctity of the human personality," he said.



Tannenbaum attacks creeping 'dehumanization'

(Press Photo by Mike Bliz)

AJ Committee Leader Tanenbaum Anti-Abortion Stand Is Praised By Rabbi

ATLANTIC CITY — Calling Church in preserving the sanctity of life, and in viewing human life as so precious that even as a fetus it must be preserved.



Tanenbaum stand.

The national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee said the bishops' position made "a fundamental contribution to halting the erosion of the dignity of human life." He added, however, that he was "frankly troubled by the way the barricades are mounted and the battle is fought."

IN WHAT is believed to be the first address by a rabbi to the National Catholic Educational Association convention, he assailed widespread callousness toward individual human life.

Thoughtful and scholarly dialogue on the issue across faith lines, he suggested, would be valuable in part because "the Jewish community needs to be

we have an identical Catholic

together to discuss the relevance of life issue," Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum complimented the American Catholic bishops' strong anti-abortion stand.

EVENTS of the past few years, said Rabbi Tanenbaum, have produced such widespread rootlessness, disorientation and malaise inside and outside the religious community that a time for reassessment of values is at hand. He cited world hunger, the arms race and the changing technology of war as immediate problems.



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Rabbi at NCEA meet urges joint talks on the life issue

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (NC) — A leading Jewish spokesman for interreligious collaboration, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), proposed here that Catholics and Jews "come together to discuss the relevance of life issue."

Addressing the opening general session of the 72nd annual National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) convention, he assailed widespread callousness toward individual human life.

HE SAID this was seen in such events as the rise in violent crime, indifference to famine, the killing of Christians in Sudan, the non-reaction of many Irish Americans to events in Ireland and the lack of accountability shown by large corporate interests such as oil companies eager to bilk consumers by claiming to sell domestic oil as imported oil.

Rabbi Tanenbaum said that interfaith dialogue on the pro-life issue would be valuable

because nationally and internationally "the issue of life as expendable, callousness, and our preoccupation with material things has killed something spiritual inside us." He

is believed to be the first rabbi to deliver a major address to the NCEA.

He complimented American Catholics for their strong anti-abortion stance.



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