



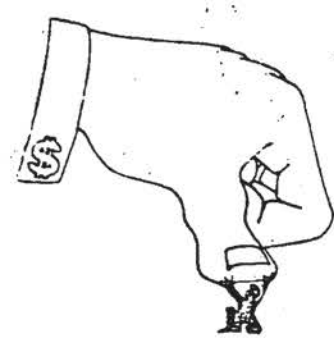
THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

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

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 79, Folder 4, Big business day, 1979-1980.



Big Business Day
1346 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Room 411
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 861-0456

December 7, 1979.

To the Board of Advisors

Big Business Day

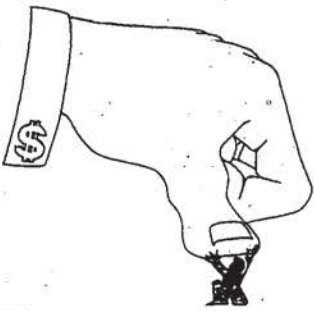
April 17, 1980.

Please note that our initiating sponsors, Ralph Nader, John Kenneth Galbraith, Douglas Fraser, William Wynn, James Farmer, and others will be holding a press conference to announce that Big Business Day will be celebrated April 17, 1980. The press conference will be held at the Methodist Building, Conference Room 2, 100 Maryland Ave, N.E. Washington, D.C. at 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, December 12, 1979. If your schedule permits, you are invited to attend. Please join us.

The staff of Big Business Day will keep you informed as to press reaction and the success of this event.

Enclosed is our latest flyer which will shortly be mailed out to numerous citizen organizations. Please note that this advance copy of the pamphlet was printed by a union house. Contrary to our instructions, the union label was omitted. All copies for public distribution will, of course, bear the union label.





BIG BUSINESS DAY

APRIL 17, 1980

1346 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Room 411
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 861-0456

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Douglas A. Fraser
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January 18, 1980

Rabbi Mark Tannenbaum
National Director of Interreligious
Affairs
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Mark Tannenbaum:

Thank you for joining the Advisory Board of Big Business Day. Organizing for the Day is progressing rapidly, and we want to keep you completely up to date.

Big Business Day was announced at a press conference on December 12 in Washington, D.C. and coverage was excellent (see representative news clips enclosed). A national staff of eight has been working to develop contacts, project ideas, publicity for the Day, and the Big Business Day Reader, a comprehensive anthology to be published in March. Our new brochure, which bears your name, has been sent to over 60,000 individuals and organizations. The Corporate Democracy Act has been drafted and is being circulated with several members of Congress expressing interest in sponsorship.

There are three requests we would ask of you to help make the Day a success.

First, we are sending along 50 Big Business Day brochures which we hope you will circulate to interested persons and organizations in your travels. Please let us know if you need additional materials.

Second, could you set aside April 17, 1980, on your calendar to avoid any future schedule conflicts? Once our cities, projects and organizers are in place, we can get back to you to decide where you would like to speak that day.

Sponsored by Americans Concerned About Corporate Power

And third, Big Business Day has raised some \$60,000 from foundations, unions, public interest groups, churches and individuals, but it is only a beginning. In order to meet the considerable costs of organizing the event, we need to raise an additional \$100,000 in the next three months. Would you be interested and able to make a contribution to this shared effort (our 501 (c)(3) tax status is now pending)? If this is not possible, could you return the enclosed contact card to provide us with additional names for organizing or fundraising purposes?

We intend to continue specific mailings of this type, including our Big Business Day Newsletter, on a regular basis. Please let us know of any specific program ideas for the Day you may have.

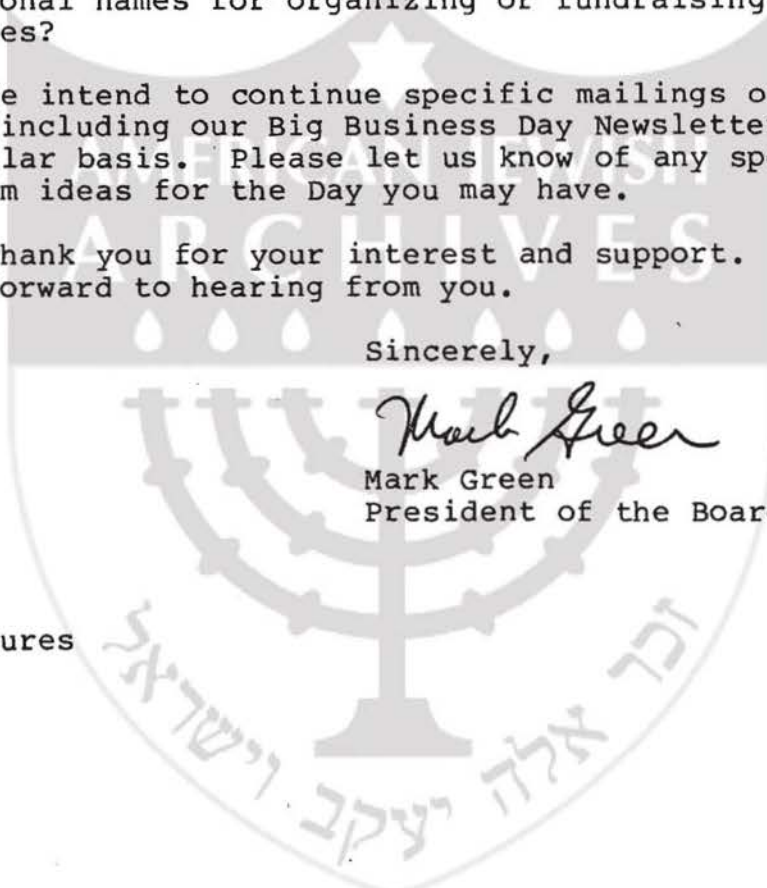
Thank you for your interest and support. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Mark Green
President of the Board

Enclosures



The American



Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

March 25, 1980

Mr. Mark Green, President
Board of Directors
Big Business Day
1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Green,

I regret that it has not been possible for us to meet together during my recent trips to Washington. I have become seriously concerned about the directions that the Big Business Day programs and publicity have been taking and I wanted to have an opportunity to discuss these concerns with you in person.

Since it is not likely that we will be able to meet during the coming days, I wish to inform you that I am disassociating myself from this effort and to tell you why.

When one of your representatives came to visit with me and to invite my joining your board of advisors, we discussed one primary issue that is of great concern to me, namely, the moral and ethical responsibility of all Americans, for the growing deterioration of the environment and the quality of life in this great country.

As I told your representative, it disturbs me greatly to read GAO reports about the disposal of some thousands of toxic chemical waste dumps throughout America that are poisoning the air and water of our country. Hooker Chemical Company and the Love Canal tragedy is but one illustration of an industry putting profit before the welfare of people. I am deeply concerned that there will be hundreds of Love Canals as well as radioactive waste concentrations emerging around the country which constitute a threat to the very existence of life and human well-being today and to future generations.

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GEORGE M. SZABAD, Westchester; ELISE D. WATERMAN, New York ■

March 25, 1980

I was assured that it was a central intention of Big Business Day to raise consciousness about moral accountability that would lead to a containment of these excesses and abuses. I made it quite explicit that I wanted no part of any effort that was out "to get business".

As I indicated to your representative, I hold a firm conviction that the American free enterprise system, has been the source of untold blessing, having provided the highest standard of living to more millions of people than any other productive system in history. It has also been the decisive resource for providing more food, clothing, shelter, medical care to millions of hungry, starving, and sick people throughout the world than any nation in the history of mankind. That is not an abstraction to me - I saw firsthand during my recent three visits to Southeast Asia what benefits our American capitalistic system has brought in helping save the lives and restore the dignity of thousands of hapless refugees.

Similarly, through my involvement in world hunger and foreign aid programs I also know firsthand how great has been the relief that our nation's production system has brought to the poor and deprived in our own country as well as in Africa, Latin America, the Near and Far East.

I don't want to see that incredible productive system weakened or paralyzed, nor do I want to help produce a medicine that is worse than the disease. On the contrary, I believe every American has a moral obligation to help make the American economic system more productive for the welfare of mankind, rather than less.

Beyond that, as I have long ago written in the enclosed essay in Theology Digest, on an ideological level I am deeply convinced that the American free enterprise system with a human face is the ideological ground of our civil, political, and religious liberties, and that state capitalism is surest enemy of democratic liberties.

From those starting points, I find the literature and publicity of Big Business Day deeply disturbing. I cannot find hardly a positive statement in any of the public pronouncements that affirms any of the positive values of American free enterprise system at its best. What emerges for me is virtually a caricature of American capitalism and its historic achievements, the net consequence of which could well be a further undermining of confidence in central structures of American society - at a time when the American people are suffering more than enough of demoralization.

For all these reasons, I have come to the conclusion that I have no alternative but to disassociate myself from this campaign, and I am therefore herewith tendering my resignation from the Board of Advisors.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

Coalition Plans To Fight 'Crime In the Suites'

By Larry Kramer
A coalition of labor and consumer groups has called yesterday for a federal law to curb the "crime in the suites" of big business.



Consumer advocate Ralph Nader leads the call yesterday for efforts to pass and repair the Corporate Democracy Act.

Bill Curbs Big Business

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of labor, consumer and public-interest organizations has unveiled a proposal for legislation to curb the powers of big business. The bill, called the Corporate Democracy Act of 1980, is expected to be introduced in Congress next year. It would provide individual shareholders and the public with greater control over the policies of the nation's largest companies.

Sun-Times

Chicago, Thursday, December 13, 1979
Chicago Sun-Times, Thursday, December 13, 1979

Coalition starts drive to curb big business

WASHINGTON (AP) — A coalition of labor, consumer and public-interest groups began a drive yesterday to place sharp curbs on the powers of big business. Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate, led the coalition in a drive to introduce legislation that would limit the powers of big business. The bill, called the Corporate Democracy Act of 1980, is expected to be introduced in Congress next year. It would provide individual shareholders and the public with greater control over the policies of the nation's largest companies. The proposed legislation would provide for independent boards of directors who better represent individual shareholders and the creation of integrated audit, public-policy and law compliance committees that monitor corporate activities.

Corporate climate grim
The New York Times
Law Against Business Abuse Urged

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 — A broad alliance of consumer, labor, and public-interest groups has begun a drive to place sharp curbs on the powers of big business. The drive is being led by Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate, and other members of the coalition. The coalition is calling for the passage of the Corporate Democracy Act of 1980, which would provide individual shareholders and the public with greater control over the policies of the nation's largest companies.

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THE SUN

Liberal-labor-church coalition plans assault on corporations, calls for 'Big Business Day'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A coalition of liberal, labor and church groups yesterday called for a wholesale legislative assault on alleged corporate abuses and set next April 17 as a day of national demonstrations for that cause. The coalition, called "Big Business Day," is expected to be introduced in Congress next year. It would provide individual shareholders and the public with greater control over the policies of the nation's largest companies. The proposed legislation would provide for independent boards of directors who better represent individual shareholders and the creation of integrated audit, public-policy and law compliance committees that monitor corporate activities.

Los Angeles Times THE PLAIN DEALER
OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

GROUP SEEKS MORE PUBLIC CONTROL Drive to Curb Big Business Launched

WASHINGTON (AP) — A coalition of labor, consumer and public-interest groups began a drive yesterday to place sharp curbs on the powers of big business. The drive is being led by Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate, and other members of the coalition. The coalition is calling for the passage of the Corporate Democracy Act of 1980, which would provide individual shareholders and the public with greater control over the policies of the nation's largest companies. The proposed legislation would provide for independent boards of directors who better represent individual shareholders and the creation of integrated audit, public-policy and law compliance committees that monitor corporate activities.

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