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Nov. 12, 1984

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - SOME JEWISH IMPLICATIONS

by Marc H. Tanenbaum

(Rabbi Tanenbaum, director of international relations of the American Jewish Committee, is a prize-winning social commentator over WINS--Westinghouse Broadcasting network. He pioneered in establishing relationships between Evangelicals and Jews and is co-editor of two landmark books on "Evangelicals and Jews in Conversation.")

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Several arresting conclusions about the state of the American Jewish mind emerge from preliminary reflections on last week's Presidential election:

First, most American Jews seem sufficiently secure in the belief that both the Republican and Democratic parties are so firmly committed to the well-being of the State of Israel that ~~they~~^{Jewish voters} could now afford to give priority to their deep concerns for the welfare of American democracy and religious pluralism. In the last several Presidential elections, those priorities were virtually reversed.

Second, rank-and-file Jewry - with the possible exception of many Orthodox Jews - are more seriously worried about the potential threat to their cherished democratic freedoms posed by politically-active Fundamentalist preachers and ultra-right politicians than are some Republican Jewish leaders.

Third, Jews did not abandon President Reagan, but many felt that President Reagan was abandoning them - and America - to the Fundamentalists by adopting, especially during the last weeks of the campaign, the "Christian America" ideology and rhetoric. Anyone who knows anything in depth about the history and theology of that absolutist worldview knows that it has never held any tolerance for Jews, Catholics, or other "unsanctified" as first-class citizens.

Fourth, many Jews who voted for Democratic candidate Walter Mondale did so with profound ambivalence and reservations. Few Jews who pulled the Democratic lever, I believe, did so without considerable anxiety over the prominence in the Democratic campaign of the Rev. Jesse Jackson and his Nazi-like ally, Louis Farrakhan. Their public anti-Israel and anti-Jewish verbal violence, their radical "Third World," pro-PLO ideology verged on the traumatic for Jews.

Thus, much of the Jewish vote for Mondale seemed to be far more a protest against the growing dominance of the Fundamentalist preachers-politicians in the Republican party than any serious commitment to the Democratic party in its present disarray. It was a difficult Hobson's choice. Apparently, many thoughtful Jews feared the well-financed, politically-sophisticated strategy of the Fundamentalists to take over America "precinct by precinct" (as their Third Century publications proclaimed) ~~than~~ as a long-term threat than they did the present danger of the Jackson-Farrakhan demagoguery. And clearly, Jews continued to be worried about both as assaults on American democracy, and will have to deal with both in the coming months and years.

With all this ambiguity and painful soul-searching, the plain fact ~~is~~ seems to be that President Reagan retained the loyalty of more American Jews than the early election polls asserted. Virtually all the instant TV polls - CBS/New York Times, ABC/Washington Post - reported that Jews gave President Reagan roughly 30% of their votes while Mondale received some 70% of the Jewish vote.

But there were other polls that reported that President Reagan did substantially better than that in the Jewish community. The Richard Wirthlin, Weston, and the New York Jewish Community Relations Council district polls all reported independently that Jews gave President Reagan approximately 44-45% of the votes in predominantly Jewish neighborhoods. That was comparable to the vote the President received in the 1980 campaign when U.S. Jews voted their disapproval of Jimmy Carter.

Given the depth of Jewish anxieties over trends toward a "Christian America" in Republican right-wing circles, that pro-Reagan Jewish vote is the all the more noteworthy.

An interesting article on "the psychology of elections" in Time magazine (Nov. 12, 1984) reports that "facts, issues, and party affiliations are becoming less important than voters' emotions...Feelings are three or four times more important as issues or party identification." Political scientists analyze two sets of feelings that they believe elect candidates., Time writes. "The first involves traits that voters ascribe to different candidates, such as integrity, leadership and empathy. The other is a cluster of feelings that are aroused in voters by the

by the candidates, such as anger, ~~xxxx~~ uneasiness, hope and pride. ...If a candidate can push the hope and pride buttons and avoid touching the anger and fear buttons, he will probably win."

A presidential candidate, the Time story adds, will induce the right emotions if he acts decisively, regardless of what actions he takes. Decisive action is taken as a display of leadership and swamps all other factors.

If one were to track ~~of~~ the trajectory of the Jewish mood during this campaign, it is safe to speculate that two to three months prior to the election, American Jews shared many of the feelings toward President Reagan and much of his domestic and foreign policies with American Catholics and Protestants.

Clearly, American Jews were generally positive over the economic prosperity issue which emerged as the decisive factor in the election above all other considerations. Equally clearly, U.S. Jewry supported the President's strong defense policies and firm anti-Soviet stance. Those priorities have strong positive meanings for support of Israel's defense capabilities and the cause of Soviet Jewry.

The President's advocacy of pride in American democracy and forceful opposition to totalitarianism also evoked widespread Jewish support. To the vast majority of American Jews, America is still "the goldeneh medinah."

Those ~~politix~~ policies, plus the President's personal engaging qualities, could well have resulted in a landslide victory among Jews, despite their traditional Democratic party loyalties.

The trajectory began to decline seriously, I believe, when ~~xxxx~~ President Reagan began to push "the anger and fear buttons" by his appropriation of the Fundamentalist imagery and rhetoric about a Christian America and Armageddon politics.

Republican and conservative Jewish politicians - who were responsible for producing the Jewish vote - tended to dismiss that Fundamentalist imagery and rhetoric as campaign oratory. Evidently, they misread the consciousness of Jewish history in early Christian America - not to speak of Christian Europe - that conditions the emotions of most American Jews today. The achievement of first-class citizenship in an open, tolerant society is a relatively recent and cherished experience for American Jews. The deepest emotions of fear for security

and vulnerability are triggered when that hard-won status - which took a hundred years of struggle to achieve in state after state - even appears to be threatened.

For many Jews "anger and fear" over Fundamentalist sectarian moralities being imposed by Governmental legislation in public schools, private morals, in the very reconceptualization of pluralism in American democratic practice were not easily dismissable.

Now that the election is over, I dare say most Jews are relieved by the results. They would hope, I think, that the pro-Mondale votes in the Jewish community would be understood less as an anti-Reagan act than as a message to the President. American Jews want to see President Reagan and the Republican Party act decisively ("the mark of leadership") to stem the intrusion of Fundamentalist religion over the American government and politics - for the good of all Americans and not just for American Jews.



NEWS

FROM THE

COMMITTEE

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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE Institute of Human Relations, 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, (212) 751-4000

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people.

MORTON YARMON, Director of Public Relations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, Nov. 7....The American Jewish Committee, in a congratulatory note to President Reagan on his "impressive victory," today urged the Administration and the Congress to "seek early agreement" on implementing a number of "shared commitments" reflected during the campaign.

Among such commitments, the AJC told the President in a letter from Howard I. Friedman, its President, are: "the need to combine national strength with readiness to negotiate for peace," "the need to sustain the economic recovery without inflation," and "the need to continue concerns for the disadvantaged."

The American people, Mr. Friedman continued, "will welcome bipartisan efforts" to help in the search for "unifying and moderate solutions to the pressing problems of the nation," and Mr. Friedman pledged the support of the American Jewish Committee to the Administration and the Congress "in the search for such solutions."

Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews at home and abroad and seeks improved human relations for all people everywhere.

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Howard I. Friedman, President; Theodore Ellenoff, Chair, Board of Governors; Alfred H. Moses, Chair, National Executive Council; Robert S. Jacobs, Chair, Board of Trustees.

David M. Gordis, Executive Vice-President

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CSAE 1707

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, Nov. 7... "Early estimates of Jewish voting patterns in yesterday's election have been challenged by a number of later analyses," David M. Gordis, Executive Vice President of the American Jewish Committee, asserted today.

He announced that the American Jewish Committee was undertaking immediately its own analysis of all available data "in order to establish accurate and definitive figures." He added:

"The American Jewish Committee will interpret the significance of the Jewish community's participation in the election only after we are confident that accurate and definitive figures are available."

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CSAE 1707

EXCERPTS FROM TALK BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM, DIRECTOR OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, AT NEC
SESSION ON "FANATACISM AND FUNDAMENTALISM", NOV. 3, 1984

"Armageddon theology is rapidly becoming one of the greatest threats to democratic societies and to religious pluralism, which are the keystones of world order and peace.

"At the heart of this apocalyptic theology is a simplistic but deadly fantasy. It proclaims that an inevitable conflict must take place between the children of light (the "saved") and the children of darkness ("the damned"), and that at the end of days a global catastrophe must ensue which is a prelude to the purification of the world. There are Christian, Jewish Muslim, and secular versions of this Armageddon theology.

"In free societies, no one can contest the right for people to believe what they will, no matter how fantastic. But when this fantasy is joined with military might and political power, it becomes a genuine threat to human survival, especially in a nuclear-missile age.

"These eschatological fantasies took form in the second century BCE with the Book of Daniel and in the first century CE (about 93 A.D.) in the Book of Revelations. The translations of these fantasies into Armageddon politics resulted in the suicidal conflict of Jewish with the Romans in the first and second centuries. It resulted in vast destruction of Christian masses beginning with the Montanists in the fourth century in Asia Minor, the Crusades, the Inquisition, and with numerous salvation cults of "saints" down through the Middle Ages.

"After the second century, the Rabbis condemned such apocalyptic fantasies and stressed instead Jewish messianism - social justice in this world. The Catholic Church condemned these Armageddon theologies and salvation cults in the fourth century and afterwards.

"Yet, so powerful were these eschatological fanatasies and their emotional grip on depressed masses that they persisted in a subterranean way down into the 20th century. As Professor Norman Cohn has documented in his monumental study, 'The Pursuit of the Millenim,' Communism and Nazism appropriated these fantasies and developed secular ideologies which proclaimed the vision of inevitable cosmic conflicts. The Communists developed the notion of the "saved" (the proletariat) destroying the monstrous "damned" (the bourgeoise Capitalists). The Nazis developed their demonic scenario of Aryans (children of light) purifying the world by destroying the impure non-Aryans (the Jews and other untermenschen.)

"Today Islamic fanaticism is the most intense purveyor of those Armageddon fantasies, the suicidal attacks by Shiite Muslims against American marines in Lebanon are but one evidence of that tragic reality. Ayatollah Khomiini's ideological perception of America as "the great Satan" is another statement of that reality. The episodes of contemporary violence against and hatred of the "unsaved" are almost everywhere.

"And now Fundamentalist Christians have resurrected Armageddon politics in the United States. There are few greater threats to American democratic society and religious pluralism than that demonological world view which sees cosmic catastrophe as inevitable. After the forthcoming election, Americans must confront this ideological force as one of the central issues facing American domestic and foreign policy.

"In Israel, the resurgence of fundamentalist Judaism with its threats of violence and terror against the President of Israel, other Jews and Arabs must engage the concern of American Jewry no less than the threat of fanaticism in America by Christian fundamentalists and by Islamic fundamentalists on the international scene."

Excerpts from remarks of Senator Lowell Weicker, Connecticut Republican, to American Jewish Committee's National Executive Council, Chicago, November 2, 1984:

"The new fusion of Christian fundamentalism with a so-called conservatism has been branded as the most potent political force in the nation today. Potent it is. Conservative it is not. For if the goal of this involvement is to Christianize America, then it must be seen for what it is -- a form of radical extremism which we all -- liberal and conservative, Christian and Jew, alike -- must resist."

"People who practice fundamentalist politics and have school prayer at the top of their legislative agenda talk of a return to traditional values. I say to them that here in the U.S. there is no value more traditional than that of separation of church and state."

"As leaders in your communities, you cannot ignore the significance of November 6. But at the same time you know full well that the business of democratic government is not an every-four-year affair. You may help get your candidate elected, you may see your political party prevail, but that does not mean that, come November 7, you can afford to sit back and relax. For democracy means much more than pulling a lever. It means pulling together, whatever our party, to achieve progress and to preserve our political heritage. One thing is certain: We will have our work cut out for us in the 99th Congress."

NEWS

SENATOR LOWELL WEICKER, JR.
CONNECTICUT

303 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Speech by (202) 224-4041
Senator Lowell Weicker, Jr.
to the
American Jewish Committee
Chicago, Illinois
November 2, 1984

Thank you for the opportunity to be here with you in Chicago today. The writer Nelson Algren once likened this city to a woman with a broken nose. "There may well be lovelier lovelies," he said, "but never a lovely so real." If you've spent some time here, you know what he meant by that remark. This is not a city apt to put on a false face. People are what they are and proud of it--whatever their race, religion, or ancestry. And when it comes to opinions or beliefs, they don't mince words.

Now, whether or not Chicago is your kind of town you have to admit that it is a quintessentially American one. The drive and diversity which characterize it are a direct result of our democratic system of government. This system not only drew people here in the first place--from famine-stricken Ireland, from the war-ravaged European mainland and from all parts of the globe--but once they were here it enabled them to work at what they chose and worship as they saw fit.

The freedoms of speech and religion secured by the First Amendment to the Constitution laid the foundation for a nation where no one ideology or theology would dominate to the exclusion of others. And for more than 200 years, that foundation has spared us the sectarian violence visited on so many other countries. Whether we look at Lebanon, Northern Ireland, Iran or India, the lesson is the same--don't mix government and religion.

The world has just witnessed the tragic assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Her death was greeted by some of her countrymen with the cheer: "Long live the Sikh religion." Now it is not my place to take sides in that nation's religious strife, nor do I mean to assume a holier-than-thou attitude. But

I believe we must realize that there but for the grace of our Constitution go you and I. Senator Sam Ervin used to quote from the opinion of Chief Justice Walter P. Stacy of the North Carolina Supreme Court in State v. Beal. "For some reason, too deep to fathom," wrote Stacy, "men contend more furiously over the road to heaven, which they cannot see, than over their visible walks on earth. It would be almost unbelievable if history did not record the tragic fact, that men have gone to war and cut each other's throats because they could not agree as to what was to become of them after their throats were cut."

History records it, and current events confirm it. Yet here in the United States some people still aren't convinced. The new fusion of Christian fundamentalism with a so-called political conservatism has been branded the most potent political force in the nation today. Potent it is. Conservative it is not. For if the goal of this movement is to Christianize America, then it must be seen for what it is--a form of radical extremism which we all-- liberal and conservative, Christian and Jew alike--must resist.

Now don't get me wrong. I don't fault the fundamentalists on what they choose to believe or how they interpret the Bible. I fault them for attempting to foist that interpretation off on the rest of us via our public schools.

People who practice fundamentalist politics and have school prayer at the top of their legislative agenda talk of a return to "traditional values." I say to them that here in the United States there is no value more traditional, more central to our way of life, than that of separation of church and state. It is our great gift to the history of the world. For as Theodore White put it, "Never in civilization, since the earliest ziggurats and temples went up in the mud-walled villages of prehistoric Mesopotamia, had there been any state that left each

individual to find his way to God without the guidance of the state."

During the 97th and 98th Congresses, there were repeated attempts to dilute--and in some cases outright destroy--this quality which has distinguished our society from all others. There have been bills to strip the federal courts of jurisdiction over school prayer. During floor consideration of the Fiscal Year 1985 Appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, Senator Helms offered an amendment which would have in effect provided for organized school prayer. We were able to change the language to read "individual" and not "group" prayer--which is, in fact, the law of the land. Nowhere does it say an individual cannot pray. The amendment was dropped in its entirety in conference on the bill.

A similar scenario took place on the House side when a "voluntary school prayer" amendment was added to the Education Act Amendments. After I objected the House/Senate Conference on H.R. 11 deleted the reference and sent the bill to the President free of school prayer language.

I very much resent these back door raids on the Constitution. At least one thing good can be said for the proposed Constitutional amendment on school prayer that was defeated last March: for once the correct procedure was being used. But since that effort came up 13 votes shy of a two-thirds majority, the school prayer proponents have had to resort to highly questionable tactics that threaten to undermine not just the First Amendment but the separation of powers as well.

What is worse is that these radical rewrites of our Constitution have been put forward as good, old-fashioned morality. How can a little prayer hurt? we are asked. For one answer, I will defer to eight-year-old Justin Ross, who earlier

this year wrote to the White House about his experiences at a school in Canada. "In my school," writes Justin, "we had to say a prayer. Some of the children stood in the hall instead of saying the prayer. Everybody thought they were bad. One boy told me that I was going to Hell. Please don't make people hate me because I am Jewish. I do not hate you because you are not Jewish. It made me feel terrible to say the prayer."

The child speaks with the voice of authority. I can remember when I was growing up and Protestantism was de facto the official religion in the United States. So that to be a Roman Catholic or a Jew or anything but some main line Protestant denomination meant you were different, and by the definition of the times, discriminated against. I can remember feeling uncomfortable myself when, as an Episcopalian, I was made to recite a Presbyterian prayer as part of my schooling. Those among my classmates who refused to participate were made to stand outside in the park. You can be sure we looked upon them as different. Mine was a private school where attendance was voluntary. The dilemma is even greater for a child compelled to attend a public school.

In his opinion on McCollum vs. Board of Education in 1948, Justice Hugo Black discussed the special role public schools play in our society. "Designed to serve as perhaps the most powerful agency for promoting cohesion among a heterogeneous democratic people, the public school must keep scrupulously free from entanglement in the strife of sects," wrote Justice Black. "The preservation of the community from divisive conflicts, of Government from irreconcilable pressures by religious groups, of religion from censorship and coercion however subtly exercised, requires strict confinement of the State to instruction other than religious, leaving to the individual's church and home, indoctrination in the faith of his choice. "

In other words, it is not up to me as a Member of Congress or to a public school teacher to take up on Monday where the minister left off on Sunday or the rabbi on Saturday. This is why I ultimately opposed legislation that passed the 98th Congress allowing the use of public school facilities for religious purposes. I say "ultimately" because up until the 11th hour I was involved in negotiations to modify the language. We were able to restrict such meetings to before and after school only. But because it was still a bad bill, I voted against it.

In just four more days, the American people will decide who will lead them during the next four years. The voter registration drives are over. The door-to-door canvassing is done. The last of the ads are being aired. The campaigning is coming to a close.

As leaders in your communities, you can not ignore the significance of November 6. But at the same time, you know full well that the business of democratic government is not an every-four-years affair. You may help get your candidate elected, you may see your political party prevail, but that does not mean that come November 7th you can afford to sit back and relax. For democracy means much more than pulling a lever. It means pulling together, whatever our party, to achieve progress and to preserve our political heritage.

The Constitution is not a self-enforcing document. Each succeeding generation must shore up the wall of separation between church and state or else it will come tumbling down. The decisions of the courts did much to strengthen that wall in the early 60s. Now it is up to us to see that those decisions are not undone by a simple legislative majority.

One thing is certain: we will have our work cut out for us in the 99th Congress. This will be the case no matter who wins

the White House and whatever the composition of the Congress. The attack on the First Amendment has been bipartisan in nature. So must its defense be bipartisan.

And not simply bipartisan but composed of people of all faiths and no faith at all. What we are all fighting for is the freedom to interpret life and the world around us as we choose. Our purpose in banding together as a nation is not to promote Catholicism or Judaism or Buddhism or the faith of Islam but to ensure that as individuals we are free to find our own way to God. The Statue of Liberty holds up for all the world to see a lamp--not a cross but a lamp. And it is by the light of religious liberty that we must continue to make our journey.





YOUNG ISRAELI SOLDIER HELD ON SUSPICION OF FIRING ANTI-TANK MISSILE AT AN ARAB BUS IN WHICH ONE ARAB WAS KILLED AND 10 WOUNDED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- A young infantry soldier was remanded in custody by a Jerusalem magistrate today on suspicion that he fired an anti-tank missile at an Arab bus on the outskirts of Jerusalem last Sunday, killing one passenger and wounding 10 others.

The suspect, identified as David Ben-Shimol, 18, of Jerusalem, was said to have freely confessed to the crime. Three other soldiers were detained for questioning as possible accomplices before the fact. According to the Army Radio, one of them has since been released and another, a young woman soldier, will be released later today. Their identities were withheld by order of the court.

Avraham Turgeman, Southern District Police Commander, told reporters last night that the suspect cooperated with the police in reconstructing his assault on the bus and another crime of which he is accused -- throwing a grenade into an Arab coffee shop in the Old City of Jerusalem -- which occurred six weeks ago. The reconstructions were recorded on video tape.

Ben-Shimol has a police record and was tracked down, police said, by fingerprints on the hand-held missile-launcher which was found near the scene of the bus assault. The police determined that the missile and launcher were stolen from the crack Golani infantry brigade, the unit in which Ben-Shimol served until he deserted two weeks ago.

Background To The Suspect

The suspect was described as one of 10 children of a religious family of Moroccan Jews who live in Jerusalem's Katamon quarter. His father is an unemployed ritual slaughterer. According to press accounts, the youth abandoned religious practice and became estranged from his family. But his father told reporters today that the family decided to stand by him and hire an attorney. According to the elder Ben-Shimol, his son's girlfriend was killed in an Arab terrorist attack on a Jerusalem bus earlier this year.

Police said Ben-Shimol acted out of "nationalist" motives. They said he told questioners that he was enraged by the murder of two Israeli hikers by an Arab on the West Bank two weeks ago. The alleged killer, 22 year-old Issa Nimr Jibrin, arrested last week, confessed to the double murder.

Not The Work Of Zealots

Ben-Shimol left a note near the abandoned missile launcher which he signed "the avenger." Police said the note, written in flawed Hebrew, was attributed to Jewish extremists, possibly operating as a terrorist cell. Observers therefore expressed surprise that the attack on the Arab bus was not the work of rightwing zealots but apparently the act of an impressionable Sephardic youth from a poor family.

It was such youngsters who voted in large numbers for the extremist Kach Party in the July 23 elections, giving its leader, Rabbi Meir Kahane,

a Knesset mandate. Yediot Achronot reported today that Ben-Shimol recently sought to join Kach. While the attack on the Arab bus shocked most Israelis, Kahane publicly praised it as the act of a "proud Jew." Last week Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir instructed the police to investigate Kahane's remarks to see if they constituted a criminal act of incitement. There are moves underway in the Knesset to strip Kahane of his parliamentary immunity.

ISRAEL-LEBANON TALKS POSTPONED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Israel agreed today to a postponement of the military talks with Lebanon because of the Beirut government's problems in putting together its delegation. David Kimche, the Foreign Ministry's director-general, told United Nations diplomat Jean-Claude Aimee that Israel "understood" the Lebanese difficulties.

Aimee, who has been instrumental in setting up the talks, scheduled to have begun tomorrow at the UN Interim Force in Lebanon headquarters at Naqura, formally presented Kimche with Lebanon's request for "a few days" postponement.

Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Force announced that Israel's chief delegate to the talks will be Brigadier Amos Gilboa of the IDF planning branch.

MONDALE WARNS OF 'ORGY OF INTOLERANCE' LED BY FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHERS

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Democratic Presidential candidate Walter Mondale, in his final campaign appearance before a Jewish group, warned of an "orgy of intolerance" in America led by fundamentalist "preachers against pluralism and those who would cast doubt on the loyalties of Jewish Americans."

Addressing some 1,000 senior citizens and others at the Shore Front YMHA in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn last Thursday afternoon, Mondale assailed "fundamentalist Christian preachers with television ministries" who, he said, "are (President) Reagan's allies."

Continuing, Mondale said, "Anti-Semitism is not dead but continues to be a vicious disease. I'm here today to tell you that no President in American history will do more to sweep anti-Semitism out of this country than I will."

The former Vice President's campaign stop in the predominantly Jewish area of Brighton Beach followed his appearance, along with running mate Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, before a huge throng of supporters--estimated at 100,000 people -- in New York's garment district.

At both the garment district rally and the appearance in Brighton Beach, Mondale also sought to rebut Reagan's contention that the Democratic leadership had failed to condemn anti-Semitism. Reagan, in an appearance last month in a synagogue in Long Island, New York, said the Democratic Party lacked the "moral courage" to adopt a resolution at the Democratic national convention denouncing anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry.

"Mr. President, the charge says something about you," Mondale told the rally in the garment district. "That is false and contemptible and the American people do not like that kind of politics anywhere in this country."

"I have denounced (Black Muslim leader Louis) Farrakhan many times over and I've ... stood up to

those radical preachers who are so close to this President, who've taken over the Republican Party," he declared.

At the Brighton Beach appearance, Mondale continued on the same theme. "Let me tell it to you straight," he said of Reagan's charge. "It angered me. I resent it. I think it's despicable and I think it's inexcusable."

Mondale conceded that the Democratic Party platform should have included a strong resolution on anti-Semitism. But he noted that a separate resolution repudiating "bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism" had been approved by the executive committee of the Democratic national committee three weeks after the convention.

Mondale also recalled the Congressional debate during the Reagan Administration's successful effort to sell AWACS aircraft and other sophisticated military hardware to Saudi Arabia. "They used the phrase 'Reagan or Begin,'" he said.

"Wittingly or unwittingly people in and around this Administration converted the question of whether this country should give that advanced technology to the Saudi Arabians into the question of whether Jewish Americans were divided in their loyalty to this country," Mondale declared.

CABINET APPROVES WAGE-PRICE FREEZE PACKAGE AIMED TO BRING DOWN INFLATION

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The Cabinet today approved a three-month wage-price freeze agreed to by the government, labor and management last Friday, though with some modifications of the original plan to meet objections by Histadrut and a reduction of the cost of credit to ease the burden on manufacturers.

The package deal, which the government has been trying to negotiate for weeks, is targeted on bringing down inflation, currently running at an annual rate of nearly 1,000 percent. But economists and industrialists warned over the weekend that this was only a first step to create "breathing space" for the government to work out and apply far more stringent measures necessary to restore the country's economic health.

The most urgent need, according to experts, is an additional \$1 billion slash in government spending. That will mean a major slowdown in overall economic activity with a high probability of rising unemployment.

Under the package deal, initialed by representatives of labor and management Friday after lengthy talks at the Prime Minister's Office, workers will forego one-third of their cost-of-living allowances in the first two months of the 90-day freeze period but no more than five percent of the increment payable at the end of the third month.

Histadrut stressed that the pact does not cancel existing wage agreements and that it would demand that employers honor them.

Scope Of The Deal

The scope of the price freeze threatened a breakdown of the deal even before the Cabinet could act. The Treasury's original intention had been to exempt government subsidized items, particularly fuel, from the freeze and to allow the prices of many subsidized staples to rise moderately over the 90-day period.

Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar promptly accused the government of reneging on the deal since the agreement initialed by the parties applied the freeze to "all" items. "The

word 'all' is not there by chance. If they had wanted to exclude certain prices or services they would have talked about them," he said.

Government circles indicated the intention was to freeze the level of subsidies which vary according to Dollar rates but not the prices charged to consumers. Nevertheless, the Cabinet resolved today that the freeze would indeed apply to the prices of all government subsidized staples, unless labor and management agreed otherwise.

It was not immediately clear whether the freeze will include airline tickets or other transactions in which money is paid to parties abroad or interest on loans, including home mortgages.

Penalty For Price Gouging

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is planning to publish a price list covering several hundred commonly purchased household goods which are said to represent about three quarters of an average family's outlay. Thousands of other less commonly purchased items are also frozen.

The penalty for price gouging was set at up to three years' imprisonment and up to 2.5 million Shekels in fines. There will be some policing, especially on the most commonly purchased items. But consumers have been urged to see to it themselves that the freeze is observed and that gougers are identified so they can be brought to justice.

Manufacturers and employers will be helped to absorb cost-of-living increments without raising prices as in the past because the cost of credit has been reduced significantly. If bank loans cost 25 percent in October, they will cost about 15 percent in November, a reduction in line with the pared C.O.L. increments.

Measure To Save Hard Currency

In another measure aimed at saving hard currency, the government today declared it illegal to quote prices in Dollars as has been the practice up to now. The prices will remain at the levels they were on Friday, November 2, but will be quoted in Shekels at the rate of 527-\$1.

The government stressed that the exchange rate will not be frozen but will be closely supervised by the Treasury to ensure that it rises only as much as the rate of inflation.

Another modification of the blanket freeze agreed to by the Cabinet today -- at the insistence of Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy -- was to abandon a total suspension of public building. About two-thirds of the current projects will be carried out. Levy had warned that a total freeze on building would create wholesale unemployment. The Cabinet, however, decided to extend the present ban on new government contracts for another three months.

The Treasury has promised, meanwhile, to work out meaningful budget cuts with all ministries during the three month wage-price freeze and apply those cuts to the next budget.

KATYUSHA ROCKET FIRED NEAR KIBBUTZ IN BEIT SHEAN VALLEY

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The remains of a 107 mm. Katyusha rocket found near Kibbutz Beth Yosef in the Beit Shean valley south of Lake Tiberias today indicated the source of two explosions heard in the region last night. There were no casualties or damage.

Israeli soldiers searched today for more rocket debris and Jordanian soldiers were seen engaged in a similar search on their side of the Jordan River. Israel military sources said terrorists apparently infiltrated Arab Legion lines and crossed the river last night into Israel, fired two rockets and fled.



POLLS SHOW THAT SOME 70 PERCENT OF JEWISH VOTERS SUPPORTED MONDALE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- While President Reagan won a landslide reelection victory Tuesday, most Jews appear to have voted for his opponent, former Vice President Walter Mondale.

Two major exit polls, conducted by television networks, gave Mondale nearly 70 percent of the Jewish vote. ABC said the Jewish vote was 69 to 31 in favor of Mondale and CBS said its poll showed Jews voted for Mondale by a 67 to 32 majority.

This was disputed by the National Jewish Coalition for Reagan-Bush. Bruce Soll, the Coalition's executive director, said its figures showed 44-46 percent of Jews voted for Reagan which he called "a landslide" in the Jewish community for the Republican President.

Soll argued that the television exit polls included only about 200 Jews out of 2,000 persons interviewed. He said the Jewish Coalition interviewed persons in Jewish areas of California, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Florida. He said Jews supported Reagan because his position on Israel, the economy and family values were "in sync" with the Jewish community.

Findings Of AJCongress Exit Poll

However, preliminary returns from a nationwide American Jewish Congress exit survey of Jewish voters Tuesday showed at least a 70-30 split in favor of Walter Mondale.

The survey was conducted in regional areas across the country by AJCongress representatives who questioned Jewish voters as they left the polls. The early returns showed that Mondale's support among Jewish voters was about 20 percent higher than Jimmy Carter's in 1980.

AJCongress analysts say that part of the difference between Mondale and Carter support is accounted for by the return to the Democratic Party of Jews who voted for John Anderson four years ago.

Anderson, who ran as an independent in 1980, received about 10 percent of the Jewish vote. The Coalition for Reagan-Bush, the Jewish organization which supported Republican candidates in 1980, estimated that 45 percent of the Jewish voters helped elect Reagan and 45 percent voted for President Carter.

The analysis of the early AJCongress survey returns showed the following:

- * Concern for Israel remains strong among Jewish voters, but Israel did not play a significant role in Jewish voting patterns this year because both Reagan and Mondale were perceived as being sympathetic to Israel.
- * Jesse Jackson's statements and behavior in the campaign and Reagan's support for closer ties between religion and government worried many Jewish voters. Of those who supported Reagan, one-half were influenced by Jackson's role and of those who supported Mondale, three-fourths were affected by concern over Reagan's church/state policies.
- * Along with church/state concerns, social justice issues -- such as the needs of the poor and aged -- continue to be a key factor in explaining the Jewish vote.

On the basis of the first 1,500 survey returns, AJCongress analysts concluded that while Jewish voters may not be as liberal as they were 20 or 30 years ago, their economic status continues to play far less of a role than it does for other sectors of the voting population. As a result, the Jewish community continues to vote disproportionately liberal.

A final analysis, based on the full survey returns covering around 3,000 Jewish voters, will be available in several weeks.

Israel was not an issue in this year's Presidential campaign since both Reagan and Mondale are considered supporters of the Jewish State. Reagan did stress the close alliance with Israel achieved during his Administration and statements to this effect from Premier Shimon Peres and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, when Shamir was Premier, were stressed to the Jewish community.

Mondale accused Reagan of abandoning the Camp David process for his Mideast initiative and of arming Israel's Arab enemies. The Democratic candidate also promised to move the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem which Reagan opposes.

However, the particular issues that seemed to be of most concern in the Jewish community were Jackson's position in the Mondale campaign and Reagan's espousal of views that seemed to threaten the separation of church and state. Many Jews were undecided how to vote until the last minute.

The Republicans, including Reagan and Vice President George Bush, continuously stressed to Jews that the Democratic national convention had failed to pass a resolution condemning anti-Semitism and attacked Mondale's support by Jackson who many Jews consider not only anti-Israel but anti-Semitic.

Mondale accused Reagan of "moral McCarthyism" by seeking to brand opponents of prayer in the schools as anti-religious. Mondale and his Vice Presidential running mate, Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, also attacked the Republicans for adopting the agenda of the Religious Right, which, they said, would threaten the separation of church and state.

Church-State Issue Superseded Jackson Issue

Hyman Bookbinder, the American Jewish Committee's representative in Washington, said that while the Jackson issue had concerned many Jews, it seemed to fade in the past two months as fear grew about what was seen as a threat to the separation of church and state. He said that in speaking to Jewish groups across the country, he found the religious issue to be the one that worried them the most.

David Brody, the Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said that the church-state issue is what may have convinced many Jews to vote for Mondale. In addition, he noted that Mondale has long been close to the Jewish community and "Jews don't forget their friends."

Bookbinder said that, in the last two weeks of the campaign, Republicans had sought to reassure the Jewish community that the separation of church and state would not be breached. He urged the Reagan Administration, now that it has been reelected, to demonstrate to Jews that this concern was "unwarranted."

TWO JEWISH SENATORS RUNNING FOR REELECTION WIN; THE NUMBER OF JEWISH CONGRESSMEN STANDS AT 30

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 (JTA) — Senators Rudy Boschwitz (R., Minn.) and Carl Levin (D., Mich.), the only two of the eight Jews in the Senate up for election this year, were both re-elected to their second six-year terms Tuesday. A third Jew running for the Senate, Edythe Harrison, a Democrat, was defeated in Virginia by Sen. John Warner, a Republican.

In the House, Elliott Levitas (D., Ga.), a five-term Congressman, was the only one of 30 Jews seeking reelection to be defeated. The number of Jews in the House stands at 30, with the election of John Miller, a Republican former television commentator in Washington.

This is one less than the present House because Rep. Richard Ottinger (D., N.Y.) did not seek reelection after 10 years in Congress. Oren Teicher, an aide to Ottinger, appeared Wednesday to have been defeated for the seat by Joseph DiGuardi, a Republican.

Israel was not a major issue in the campaign, and the new Congress which takes office in January is expected to be as supportive of the Jewish State as the outgoing one. But several decisions Tuesday may have some effect.

An Important Defect

One of the most important was the defeat of Rep. Clarence Long (D., Md.) after 22 years in the House, by Rep. Helen Bentley. The 76-year-old Long was chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's sub-committee on foreign operations, and had been a leading force in Congress in pushing aid for Israel.

His replacement as chairman is expected to be Rep. David Obey (D., Wis.) who had been in years past considered lukewarm to Israel but recently has become "more sensitized," according to sources.

In the Senate, Sen. Charles Percy (R., Ill.) was defeated by Democrat Paul Simon, considered a close friend of Israel during his years in the House. Percy, who had long had the support of Illinois' Jews, lost it this year because of his criticism of Israel and his movement toward the Palestine Liberation Organization, despite his assertion that he supports Israel and his strong leadership in the struggle for Soviet Jewry.

The Problem With Helms

Percy was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and his successor may decide how that committee acts toward Israel. With the Republicans maintaining control of the Senate, next in line for the chairmanship is Sen. Jesse Helms (R., N.C.) who, along with Percy, was one of the two Senators targeted by many Jews across the country this year for defeat.

Helms, who was reelected Tuesday, has opposed all foreign aid, including that to Israel and has frequently criticized Israel, most notably after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. He said at the time that the United States should "shut down relations with Israel" if Premier Menachem Begin did not agree to a cease-fire.

But Helms pledged in his campaign to remain chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, a post important to his North Carolina constituents.

At the same time, he is expected to come under pressure from the New Right, which worked for Percy's defeat, to take the Foreign Relations chairmanship.

If Helms sticks to his promise, the chairmanship will go to Richard Lugar (R., Ind.) who is considered "good" by supporters of Israel. At the same time, there will be a Republican opening on the Foreign Relations Committee to replace Percy. In the House, all members of the Foreign Affairs Committee were reelected.

In another Senate race, Albert Gore, a Democrat who has a near-perfect record in the House on Israel, was elected in Tennessee to replace Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, who retired.

Lineup Of Jewish Senators

The reelection of Levin, a liberal Democrat, and Boschwitz, a Conservative Republican, means the Jewish contingent in the Senate remains at four Democrats and four Republicans. The other incumbents are: Chick Hecht (R., Nev.); Frank Lautenberg (D., N.J.); Howard Metzenbaum (D., O.); Warren Rudman (R., N.H.); Arlen Specter (R., Penn.); and Edward Zorinsky (D., Neb.).

The Lineup In The House

In the House the lineup is now 24 Jewish Democrats and six Republicans. The incumbents reelected are:

Gary Ackerman (D., N.Y.); Anthony Beilenson (D., Cal.); Howard Berman (D., Cal.); Barbara Boxer (D., Cal.); Sala Burton (D., Cal.); Ben Erdreich (D., Ala.); Bobbi Fiedler (R., Cal.); Barney Frank (D., Mass.); Martin Frost (D., Tex.); Sam Gejdensen (D., Conn.); Benjamin Gilman (R., N.Y.); Dan Glickman (D., Kan.); Willis Gradison (R., Ohio); Bill Green (R., N.Y.); Ken Kramer (R., Col.).

Tom Lantos (D., Cal.); William Lehman (D., Fla.); Sander Levin (D., Mich.); Mel Levine (D., Cal.); James Scheuer (D., N.Y.); Charles Schumer (D., N.Y.); Norman Sisisky (D., Va.); Larry Smith (D., Fla.); Stephen Solarz (D., N.Y.); Henry Waxman (D., Cal.); Theodore Weiss (D., N.Y.); Howard Wolpe (D., Mich.); Ron Wyden (D., Ore.) and Sidney Yates (D., Ill.)

THE JEWISH VOTE IN NEW YORK

By William Shaphire

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 (JTA) — Walter Mondale, his Presidential hopes buried in Tuesday's Reagan landslide, nevertheless carried New York City by a substantial margin with the help of a heavy turn-out of Jewish voters, according to a survey of districts with large Jewish populations.

Nationwide, according to most polls, Jews voted 70-30 in favor of the Democratic challenger, exceeded only by Blacks who gave 89 percent of their vote to Mondale. Other ethnic and religious groups voted overwhelmingly for Reagan, except Hispanics who supported Mondale only marginally.

The voter turn-out in the city and across the nation was substantially greater in 1984 than in 1980. In the latter year, more than 40 percent of the Jewish vote went to Reagan nationwide and he carried New York City by some 200,000 votes. This year, the President lost the city by more than 467,000 votes.

Votes In Manhattan Areas

On Manhattan's Upper West Side, a middle and upper middle class area heavily populated by Jews, Tuesday's tally was 40,196 for Mondale and 13,433 for Reagan. Four years ago, President Carter took the Upper West Side by 8,550-2,131. The disparity in the number of votes cast there and in other areas in the two elections reflects the strong voter registration drive this year and the much larger turnout at the polls.

On the generally affluent Upper East Side, which also has a substantial Jewish population, Mondale won by 24,906 votes to Reagan's 21,487. In 1980, Carter took the district by 14,075 to 9,505.

In Lower Manhattan-Greenwich Village, Mondale polled 39,529 votes to Reagan's 11,889. The results four years ago were 18,192 for Carter to 6,885 for Reagan. In the Stuyvesant Town area which has a large enclave of middle class Jews, Mondale won by a vote of 32,371-18,299. In 1980, the district went to Carter by a much smaller margin -- 12,873-10,715.

Jewish votes in the Washington Heights section in upper Manhattan helped Mondale to a lopsided win over Reagan by a margin of 25,559-4,305. Mondale took the Chelsea-Central Park West district by 34,800 to 13,591 votes.

In Co-Op City in the Bronx, a Jewish enclave with a large number of elderly and retired persons, Mondale won by 26,112-20,203, a margin of less than 6,000 votes compared to Carter's 9,750 vote margin there in 1980.

The well-to-do Riverdale section of the Bronx, which has a large Jewish population, went for Mondale by a vote of 23,530-17,793. In 1980, Carter took the district by 15,152 votes against Reagan's 8,229.

Situation In Brooklyn

Brooklyn, which is believed to have the largest Jewish population of all five boroughs, gave Mondale a winning margin of 132,000 votes. There the patterns of 1980 were repeated in that districts heavily populated by ultra-Orthodox and Hasidic Jews tended to favor the conservative Reagan over his Democratic opponent.

In Boro Park, where Hasidim constitute the largest element of the Jewish population, Reagan beat Mondale by 20,387 to 10,201 votes. In 1980, Reagan took the district with 15,779 votes to Carter's 8,773. Mondale carried Williamsburg, home of the Satmar Hasidim, by 14,282-12,494, a much smaller margin than Carter's 12,802-3,112 win in 1980.

Reagan won strongly in Bensonhurst, a Brooklyn district where Jews and Italians are the largest ethnic groups. The results there were 18,757 for Reagan to Mondale's 11,005 votes. Reagan took the district from Carter in 1980 by a smaller margin -- 11,777-10,213.

But in Flatbush-Midwood, where Jews predominate, including many Orthodox, Mondale swept Reagan by 15,324-6,225 votes. Carter won that district in 1980 by 11,093-5,845.

The Coney Island-Brighton Beach district went for Mondale Tuesday by a close 21,170-19,136 votes. Coney Island is heavily Black and Hispanic; Brighton Beach is overwhelmingly Jewish with a large population of Soviet-Jewish emigres which has earned it the sobriquet, "Little Odessa."

The Vote In Queens

The heavily Jewish populated Kew Gardens-Forest Hills district in Queens went for Mondale by 23,850-20,897 votes. Carter took the district from Reagan in 1980 by only 46 votes.

Rochdale Village-Howard Beach in Queens gave Mondale 31,258 votes to 8,842 for Reagan and in Fresh Meadows-Little Neck voters favored Mondale by 26,730-24,341. Both districts have substantial Jewish populations.

JEWISH WOMAN GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE WINS IN VERMONT; MISSOURI HAS JEWISH WOMAN LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Madeleine Kunin, the Democratic candidate in Vermont, Wednesday became the state's first Jewish woman Governor, defeating State Attorney General John Easton Jr., a Republican. With 100 percent of the votes tallied, Kunin had 116,575 or 50.8 percent to Easton's 112,883 or 49.0 percent. Easton has conceded defeat.

Kunin is from a family of European emigrants that fled the Nazis in 1940 for the United States. The Swiss-born Kunin became a U.S. citizen in 1947. In 1972, she was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives. She served three terms. She was also Vermont's Lt. Gov. for two terms between 1978 to 1982.

Kunin, 51, lost a race for Governor two years ago to Richard Snelling, who is retiring. Significantly, she has in the past weeks gained the endorsement of many of the state's leading newspapers, including the traditionally Republican Burlington Free Press. There are about 2,500 Jews in Vermont, out of a state population estimated at 516,000.

Kunin had campaigned against Easton mainly stressing the themes of experience and improving educational opportunities. Easton, 41, stressed the issues of law-and-order throughout the campaign. Kunin becomes only the second woman governor in the U.S. and is only the third Democrat, to hold the office in Vermont in 130 years.

In Missouri, meanwhile, Democratic State Senator Harriet Woods became the first woman elected to be Lt. Governor, defeating Republican Mel Hancock.

Woods, who is Jewish, gained national prominence when she staged an unsuccessful bid to oust U.S. Senator John Danforth two years ago. With nearly 80 percent of the vote counted, Woods has 932,414 or 54 percent, to Hancock's 793,349, or 46 percent.

Democrat Lt. Gov. Kenneth Rothman, meanwhile, was defeated by Attorney General John Ashcroft, a Republican, in a fight to succeed retiring Republican Governor Christopher Bond. With about 80 percent of the vote counted, the latest available figures show that Ashcroft had 993,894 or 57 percent to Rothman's 760,133 or 43 percent.

SAMPLING OF ISRAELI AMERICAN VOTERS SHOWED THEY PREFERRED MONDALE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- A random sampling of Israeli-Americans who participated in Tuesday's Presidential election showed that they preferred Walter Mondale over President Reagan.

Of 20 Israelis who were interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 13 said that they voted for the Democratic candidate while seven supported Reagan. All the Israelis who were interviewed voted in Manhattan.

The Israelis who supported Mondale said they felt he was better for Israel and that they liked his more liberal views, especially on issues of religion and social welfare. Few of the Israelis said that they prefer "Democrats over Republicans" and therefore voted for Mondale. Others said that Mondale was a better choice, especially because of the influence of the Christian Right on Reagan.

The Israelis who supported Reagan said his record on support for Israel was "excellent", that his economic policy has been a success "and that it is good for Israel, too," as one Israeli said.

Many Israelis, however, who are American citizens, did not participate in the election. "I did not even bother to register," said one, while another explained, "I have an American passport -- but I don't feel American. Mondale or Reagan, it simply does not matter to me."

Although there are an estimated 200,000 Israelis in the United States, it is believed that only a few thousand of them are American citizens. Many of the Israelis here have the status of "permanent residents," who are not allowed to participate in elections. They can apply for American citizenship but decline to do so. "Once you take an American citizenship you are no longer an Israeli," some of them reason.

PERES, HERZOG CONGRATULATE REAGAN By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog and Premier Shimon Peres sent cables of congratulations Wednesday to President Reagan on his landslide victory in Tuesday's elections. Herzog told Reagan that his reelection has reaffirmed Reagan's role as the leader of the free world.

Peres said, in his message, that the American people have demonstrated their trust and confidence in Reagan's leadership and that this will be noted by the entire world.

"Your great and sincere friendship for the Israeli democracy, and your committed, consistent and persistent advocacy of shared values is a source of strength" for Israel, Peres wrote Reagan. "We wish you and the American people and the free world that your renewed mandate of leadership will carry with it the promise of freedom everywhere."

The Israeli leader also added that his recent meeting with the President in Washington reinforced his appreciation of Reagan's friendship and desire for close cooperation between the two countries.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWISH POOR OF NEW YORK By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Most of New York City's poor Jews are children and working age adults, and these non-elderly poor account for about 70 percent of all poor Jewish individuals and about half of all poor Jewish households in the city, according to a new study by the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty.

Rabbi David Cohen, Coordinating Council executive director, said the data came from a draft summary of a recently-completed report on "The Low Income Jewish Population of New York Study." He said the formal report would be issued shortly.

Cohen said the data showed that nearly 77,000 Jews, who together made up 38,000 households, had family incomes below the federal poverty guideline. For a family of three, that meant an annual cash income of less than \$7,250 in 1981. The data is based on an estimate by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of a total of 1.1 million Jews in the city in 1981.

The preliminary report said that "taking a somewhat higher, more realistic poverty guideline equal to 150 percent of the federal figure, to account for New York City's higher living costs, there were about 144,000 Jews or 68,000 Jewish households living in poverty in 1981."

The summary indicated that elderly Jews -- aged 65 and older -- account for about 30 percent of all of New York City's poor Jews but, because many of them live alone, they account for about half of

all poor Jewish households. These data do not include persons living in such institutions as nursing homes, many of whom are elderly.

Compared to the total Jewish population of New York City, low income households are more likely to be headed by a young person, under 25, or an old one, 65 or older. Low income Jewish households are also more likely to be small -- two out of five consist of only one person, but some are much larger, according to the summary, containing four or more children.

Two out of every five poor Jews live in Brooklyn, the borough with the city's largest Jewish population. Another 25 percent live in Manhattan and Queens. At present the Bronx has less than 10 percent of the city's poor Jews.

Findings From A Sample Survey

The summary also presented findings from a sample survey. One was that only one Jewish household in three reported being in contact with Jewish community service agencies.

Another was that, of those poor Jews who were in such contact, the most frequent relationships were with Jewish Ys -- 18 percent of all respondents; 16 percent of Jewish community councils; and ten percent with the Jewish Association for Services to the Aged.

In terms of kinds of services or help received, the most frequent situations were of senior centers, 16 percent; help in getting government benefits, six percent; and food and financial aid, six percent.

One Jewish household in four reported contacts with non-Jewish agencies or officials. The most frequent contact -- 18 percent -- was with a government agency. Only three percent reported contact with a non-Jewish voluntary agency.

The low levels of reported contact, according to the Coordinating Council summary, did not necessarily mean that these poor Jewish families were failing to get benefits. All but eight percent report getting at least one type of social or health benefit.

The most common was Medicare, the federally-directed hospitalization and medical program available to qualified Social Security beneficiaries, which was reported by 70 percent of all Jewish households. Second most frequent was senior center membership, reported by 28 percent, and housing help, reported by 26 percent.

"In terms of the most common forms of means-tested assistance, 18 percent reported getting help from Medicaid, (the government health care program for the indigent); 14 percent from food stamps, ten percent from Supplementary Security Income (SSI) and six percent from NEAP (energy aid) while only two percent reported 'public assistance,' meaning welfare.

The summary reported that few of the city's poor Jews admitted needing help. When asked what they found it hardest to afford, they cited, in almost equal percentages, food, shelter, clothing, health care and payment of utility bills. When they were asked what services should be made more readily available, responses focussed most on home care -- 14 percent of respondents; senior citizens services -- 12 percent; and cash help -- eight percent.

Cohen said one of the goals of the Coordinating Council study was to show that, in some respects, the needs of the city's Jewish poor are different than those of other poor in the city. "In particular, they differ because more of them are elderly and because low income Jewish households tend to live in different neighborhoods from those in which the city's poverty (and anti-poverty) help is concentrated."

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VICTORY '84

ILLINOIS JEWISH COALITION

Dear Colleagues:

The 1984 election is a critical one for Jews. I believe that Ronald Reagan should be re-elected. These are my reasons:

1. Jackson. "For the first time in American history, writes Lucy Davidowicz, historian of the holocaust, anti-Semitism has become a major political issue. I am referring, of course, to the Democratic Party's failure to repudiate by name, loud and clear, the purveyors of racist anti-Semitism. By its failure to confront Jesse Jackson on the issue of anti-Semitism, the Democratic Party has put itself into jeopardy."

The long history of Jackson's anti-semitism has been well documented, and, living in Chicago, I can confirm it. His refusal to repudiate Farrakhan, whom he has used as his surrogate, whose followers are his bodyguards and whose members occupy positions of honor at Jackson's PUSH meetings, has drawn little response from Mondale. Nor has all the sweet talk from Jewish leaders helped. According to a national poll, 69% of Jackson delegates to the Democratic Convention approved of Farrakhan's statements. And yet Mondale has refused to criticize Jackson. To the contrary, he gave him a coveted role at the Convention. Like the 1924 Democratic Convention, when the KKK was not repudiated, it seemed Democratic political wisdom to barter anti-Semitism for votes. So fearful of Jackson was Mondale that a he allowed the proposed platform plank against anti-Semitism to be dropped because Jackson opposed it. Jackson and his followers have demanded as the price for black support an additional \$30 billion for social programs whose distribution will be guided by Jackson proposed appointments. That is just the figure which Mondale announced in his "economy" budget. Jackson will not go away, whoever wins. The Jackson Camp, or his successors, will provide a force in this country for the PLO, against Israel and against Jews, and well-funded from Arab countries. A frightening prospect!

2. Israel. It will be impossible to protect Israel unless the United States follows a foreign policy which permits it to become "involved" in situations outside its borders. This is anathema to the isolationism which now dominates most Democratic

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leaders, dictating withdrawal from Central America and Europe, etc., to fortress America. While that may be idyllic, let us understand the consequences of withdrawal. It must include the Middle East, as well, and would preclude significant future involvement there. Only an America whose foreign policy permits it to act outside its borders, thereby insuring diplomatic influence, will prevent Israel from being swallowed up by its enemies.

Reagan alone is committed to such a foreign policy.

3. Morality. The greatest threat to our country is not Russia, but the growing moral decay all around us. Over half of the children born in major American cities this year were illegitimate; pornography has so invaded our land that incest, child abuse, and rape are rampant; the traditional family is only an "alternate life-style". The rapid decline in family morality is a primary concern to Judaism, which is in good measure responsible for the best family values of Western culture. While we may be concerned with the religious right, I, for one, do not believe that that is an area of serious danger. We suffer from an outdated mentality when we lived in Catholic-dominated Poland where Christianity equalled anti-Semitism. Our future here is to find a new coalition for moral purposes, and this must include the Christian community. What we fight is not Catholics and Protestants, but pornographers and pagans. Mondale represents the old secular, welfare humanists. The Reagan Party is more concerned with the moral rebirth of America, which we share and to which we have a significant contribution to make.

4. Welfare. The good intentions of the civil rights coalition in dealing with the problems of the disadvantaged has been distorted out of all perspective. (see the recent articles of Irving Kristol in Commentary.) What began as equal individual opportunities has become equal group results. Quotas have turned into a spoils system, and the old doctrine of merit is no longer heard in the land. We are now confronted with a welfare family malaise in which the smartest thing for a 15-year-old girl is to have a baby out of wedlock. She does not marry a man; she marries the State, which then provides for her needs. Mondale has no solution for this problem.

(The welfare budget, which is now swollen to twice the defense budget, will simply be expanded. If money was the answer to poverty, why, one trillion dollars later, is there more poverty, more crime and more misery than before? Reagan represents realism, seeking to solve the dilemma of poverty not by welfare handouts but through a sound economy which reduces inflation and provides a growing number of jobs. The distinguished black economist, Thomas Sowell, spells this out in his new book, Civil Rights 1984. I urge you to read it.

5. Politics. We Jews should not be taken for granted by any party. The Democrats can tolerate the Jackson's anti-Semitism, because they believe they already have the Jewish vote. But Jews voted Republican not so many years ago; the shift to the Democratic Party has been of recent vintage. Jews should vote where their best interests and where the best interests of our country lie. We should ask questions: "What is your stand on Jackson, on Israel, on pornography, on the welfare system?" Answers to these questions point overwhelmingly to a Reagan preference.

6. Victory Finally, all election polls point to a Reagan victory. The Jewish input in the next Republican administration will most probably be commensurate with our support.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Samuel Dresner, DHL



Oct. 28-29, 1984
New York, NY

HIGHLIGHTS

Pressing domestic and international issues now facing the Jewish community were addressed by the NJCRAC Executive Committee and Commissions on Sunday and Monday, October 28 and 29, with 115 representatives from 52 communities and 10 national agencies attending the sessions. Irving Blank, past-President of the Richmond CRC, wrote to NJCRAC Chair Jacqueline Levine after the meetings ("the best I have ever attended"), that he returned home "with a sense that NJCRAC was performing tasks that would result in accomplishments that not only was the organization created for, but that only this organization could achieve."

RESISTING ASSAULT ON SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

A draft set of guidelines to deal with the current assault on church-state separation, flowing from the series of eight all-day regional emergency "consultations" convened by NJCRAC, were submitted to the Executive Committee by the Commission on Church-State and Interreligious Relationships. The Executive Committee welcomed the guidelines as responsive to community needs, and on the Commission's recommendation decided to circulate them to member agencies for review and comment, so as to stimulate community discussion and further enhance community and national agency input. The Executive Committee authorized the Domestic Task Force to take final action on the guidelines, in light of member agencies reactions, at its meeting on December 6.

The guidelines are a compilation of the many specific strategy and tactical ideas that emerged from the emergency consultations, which focused on defending against attempts to bring religious practices into the public schools, and to provide government support for the display of religious symbols, such as creches. Nearly 100 communities participated in the consultations, held in a four-week period during September and October in Atlanta, Chicago, Columbus, Hartford, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami and Philadelphia.

RELIGION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

A proposed NJCRAC position statement on the role of religion and religious groups in the political process was considered by the Executive Committee and the Commission on Church-State and Interreligious Relationships. Weighing whether a statement should be issued on the eve of the election, the Executive Committee decided against such a move, because it might be misconstrued as a partisan act, and would tend to make the document appear as a transitory response to current events instead of the intended long-range policy statement. To maximize member agency input, the Executive Committee recommended the draft should be circulated to member agencies for their comments as a basis for action on it at the next, December 6, meeting of the Domestic Task Force, which originally proposed such a statement.

The statement was designed both as a long-range guide for the Jewish community relations field, and as a focus for discussion, nationally and locally, with other religious bodies and public officials. A detailed draft, reviewed by a Commission

The statement was designed both as a long-range guide for the Jewish community relations field, and as a focus for discussion, nationally and locally, with other religious bodies and public officials. A detailed draft, reviewed by a Commission subcommittee, articulated the "legitimate, indeed desirable" role of religious groups in public policy advocacy, but it challenged those who would use in their advocacy religious "coercion," "sectarianism," and religious tests for public office. The Commission adopted the concept of the draft, which also called for debate that focuses "on the public good rather than religious imperatives," and recommended that the draft to be circulated to member agencies for comment be revised to take into account the suggestions flowing out of the extensive Commission discussion.

"EQUAL ACCESS" GUIDELINES

The Executive Committee, on the unanimous recommendation of the Church-State Commission, recommended that NJCRAC member agencies should not sign on to a set of guidelines for implementing the recently-passed "equal access" law. The guidelines had been drafted by both proponents and opponents of the law, including the ACLU, the Christian Legal Society, and the National Education Association and will be widely circulated to school boards and school officials by the American Association of School Administrators. The NJCRAC recommendation grew out of concern over serious omissions in the guidelines, such as their failure to mention the danger of proselytizing activities or organized prayer services in the schools. But, more fundamentally, it was felt that these guidelines, which call for cooperation in the implementation of the "equal access" law, undermine NJCRAC's basic position that the law violates the First Amendment's separation clause.

PRIORITY ON REPRESSION AND ISOLATION OF SOVIET JEWS

The Executive Committee urged a high priority to be given to mobilizing the Jewish community on a crisis footing to counter the seriously worsening plight of Soviet Jewry, marked by a virtual cutoff of emigration and repression of Jewish cultural and spiritual life. The gradual and constantly growing Soviet repression, exacerbating the profound sense of isolation of Soviet Jews, requires emergency-level responses from world Jewry, Don Lefton, Chair of the International Commission asserted. NJCRAC Chair, Jacqueline Levine, also underscored the crisis, noting the mobilization called by the International Council of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry, whose London, semi-annual meeting she and Executive Vice Chairman Albert D. Chernin attended in September.

NJCRAC's effort to generate fresh techniques for vitalizing Soviet Jewry activities in response to the crisis was evidenced by "brainstorming" sessions of CRC executives and the entire International Commission, resulting in a number of action recommendations designed to dramatize the crisis and marshal support. Special emphasis was given to a coordinated series of local "Fasts for Freedom" in support of the hunger strike by Aleksandr Kholmiansky, one of the six recently arrested Hebrew teachers, whose hunger strike is being similarly supported by other Soviet Jews. To aid in these efforts Mrs. Levine announced the appointment of Miriam Himmelfarb as Program Associate for Soviet Jewry.

REFUSENIK'S APPEAL

A moving, personal appeal for vigorous actions for the Soviet Jewry cause was made to the Executive Committee by long-time Refusenik Alexandra Finkelstein, who, with her husband and daughter, was finally allowed to emigrate to Israel last year. Emphasizing that her own personal story was "one of thousands," she told of the job dismissals, arrests, K.G.B. searches, seizure of Jewish books, and constant harassment and tension that she and her husband lived with for 13 years after they applied for exit visas in 1970. Appealing for participation in fast days in support of Soviet Jewish hunger strikers protesting the recent arrests of Hebrew teachers, Finkelstein described the "ruined lives . . . separated families" and "torture by means of time" that those Soviet Jews brave enough to risk applying for visas live with every day. "You must help them . . . human strength is not endless."

SUCCESSSES AND DANGERS FOR ETHIOPIAN JEWRY

Reports on the rescue and absorption of Ethiopian Jews were presented to the Executive Committee by Robert Schroyer, Chair of the NJCRAC Committee on Ethiopian Jews, and International Director, Abraham Bayer. Underscoring the need for discretion in dealing with this delicate question, since media disclosures could jeopardize the rescue operation, they described the valiant and concerted effort that has brought more than 7,000 Ethiopian Jews home to Israel, and that is now addressing the rescue of the thousands currently in refugee camps beyond the Ethiopian border. Bayer also reported on the intensive two-week tour he and Barry Weise, NJCRAC Ethiopian Jewry Desk Director, made of more than a dozen absorption centers in Israel this past summer, where they obtained firsthand knowledge of the "most impressive" absorption efforts for Ethiopian Jews conducted by Israel.

THIRD NJCRAC ETHIOPIAN MISSION

Chair Jacqueline K. Levine announced to the Executive Committee that, on November 18, B'nai B'rith International President, Gerald Kraft, will lead the third NJCRAC mission to Ethiopia to gather direct knowledge of conditions of the Beta Yisrael in the famine-stricken country. NJCRAC's early support for U.S. famine relief to Ethiopia was approvingly recalled by representatives at the Executive Committee meeting, and they called for a vehicle through which the Jewish community could respond to this tragedy. Subsequent to the meeting, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) agreed, in response to NJCRAC's request, to serve as that vehicle. Checks, made out to "American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee," and marked "Ethiopian Relief," can be sent to JDC, Suite 1914, Dept. M, 60 East 42 Street, New York, NY 10165.

NJCRAC ETHIOPIAN JEWRY DESK PROJECT EXTENDED

The need for extensive efforts to bring accurate information and detailed interpretation to communities on the Ethiopian Jewry issue was voiced by many delegates, who also praised the work of the NJCRAC Ethiopian Jewry Desk, which has included visits to over 40 communities. NJCRAC Chair Levine announced that, after a careful evaluation of the Desk's operation in its 10-month pilot period, CJF, UJA, and UIA have asked NJCRAC to continue the Desk's operation for another 10 months, to July 15, 1985, and have given NJCRAC grants totalling \$100,000 to fund its extension.

NEW DIRECTIONS IN BLACK JEWISH RELATIONS

Executive Vice Chairman Albert D. Chernin reported to the Executive Committee on the fruitful developments that have flowed from NJCRAC's initiatives in renewing ties with national, black agency leadership. Building on a strategy developed over the past 12 months by a subcommittee on black-Jewish relations of the Domestic Task Force, NJCRAC convened a meeting of key national black and Jewish national agency executives this past September, in what is anticipated will be an ongoing process. Looking to specific actions on issues of shared concern, the meeting led to a September 20 joint statement, the first of its kind in many years, signed by leaders of 26 key black and Jewish national agencies in support of the "Grove City" Civil Rights Bill of 1984. National Urban League President John Jacob's acceptance of our invitation to address the 1985 Plenum, and invitations to key, black agency professionals to meet with the Domestic Task Force, are also products of the process. Next, the off-the-record leadership discussions will focus on common elements in both communities' agendas, using the NJCRAC Joint Program Plan as the consensus statement of the Jewish community.

BLACK-JEWISH RELATIONS—AGENCY INITIATIVES

More evidence of efforts to restore black-Jewish ties, at both national and local levels, was heard by the Commission on Equal Opportunity. Efforts by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, culminating in a spring conference, jointly planned with the NAACP, to involve black and Jewish religious, political, and media leaders from 20 cities, were described by Associate Director of UAHC's Commission on Social Action, David Saperstein. Similar efforts at the community level were outlined by Indianapolis CRC Director, Marcia Goldstone, who described difficulties still flowing from Louis Farrakhan's appearance at a local "Black Expo," reluctance of some Christian leadership to denounce him, and indifference, if not hostility, within the Jewish community to renewing ties with blacks. But Goldstone reported successes in the effort, especially on joint initiatives on specific civic issues, such as use of deadly force by local police, and in forming joint black-Jewish leadership groups, one linking women, one clergy, and one bringing JCRC and NAACP leaders into a joint affairs commission.

ISRAELI ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

Noted MIT economist Stanley Fischer, a member of the "Herb Stein Committee" appointed by Secretary of State Shultz to advise him on U.S. aid to Israel, analyzed Israel's critical economic situation for the Executive Committee. Tracing the roots of the current crisis and runaway inflation, Fischer emphasized the high consumer and government spending, especially in relation to weak export trade. Terming government budget cuts of \$2 billion "essential," he pointed to costly government subsidies of food and exports, and the large government employment covering 30% of the labor force, as areas that could be cut.

Fischer's analysis, which he declared is shared by most economists, including Israeli, may well presage the January report of the Joint U.S.-Israeli Economic Development Group, created by President Reagan and Prime Minister Peres. Fischer raised an issue that could be the focus of the debate, even within the Jewish community, when he asserted that a significant expansion of U.S. aid might have to be

linked to Israel's readiness to make badly needed sacrifices that go beyond the Israeli government's cut of \$1 billion from the budget. Emphasizing the critical demands placed on the government, Israeli Deputy Consul General Herzl Inbar, in observations to the Israel Commission, cited Israel's social (aliyah absorption) and military obligations as placing severe restraints on its ability to cut spending further. The Israel Task Force, at its next, December 5, meeting, will address the programmatic implications of these analyses.

One approach that will be under consideration was a conference to encourage U.S. business-community participation in Israel's economic recovery, which was presented to the Israel Commission by New York JCRC Assistant Director, Michael Miller. The JCRC's trade conference was co-sponsored with the American Jewish Congress and the U.S., New York State, and American Israel Chambers of Commerce. Miller proposed that CRCs around the country replicate the New York symposium, at which over 180 paying business guests saw tangible import, export, and investment opportunities related to the U.S.-Israeli Free Trade Area agreement, and Israel's burgeoning "high tech" industries.

U.S.-ISRAELI COOPERATION

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Robert Pelletreau, addressing the Israel Commission, sketched a picture of unprecedented cooperation between the U.S. and Israel. Particularly emphasizing the military sphere, he pointed to the ongoing operation of the U.S.-Israeli Joint Political/Military Group, as well as the deepening mutual respect growing among high- and middle-level officers of both countries through functional consultations and joint military exercises, which are not being publicized. Indicating that while "there will be differences between the U.S. and Israel," they will be treated in an atmosphere of "friendship, cooperation and trust," Ambassador Pelletreau used the example of the U.S. supplying arms to Arab states, which, he said, has been the subject of discussion in the Joint Political/Military Group.

On the diplomatic front, the Ambassador noted America's role in Israel's proposed withdrawal from Lebanon, indicating that the U.S. was proceeding cautiously based on indications that the Syrians regard Lebanon as a separate issue from the Golan Heights. (Later that week, it was announced that negotiations on withdrawal between Israel and Lebanon would, in fact, take place.) On economic matters, Pelletreau pointed to the functioning Joint Economic Development Group, the "safety net" commitment on Israel's foreign currency reserves, and the progress toward a Free Trade Area agreement. The day immediately following the Executive Committee meeting, President Reagan signed the Congressional legislation authorizing negotiations toward the FTA, with NJCRAC's role in fostering the FTA acknowledged by an invitation to NJCRAC to attend the signing ceremony.

U.N. WOMEN'S DECADE CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI

Updates on planning for the 1985, Nairobi, End of the U.N. Women's Decade Conference, presented by NJCRAC Committee on the U.N. Chair, Shirley Joseph, were heard by the Executive Committee, Israel Commission, and the Task Force on Women. NJCRAC's efforts, which will soon involve greater community participation, Joseph reported, have concentrated on encouraging a strong U.S. role in preventing "hijacking" of the conference by anti-Israel and anti-Western propagandists, as well as promoting the original feminist concerns of the conference. The upcoming, February, Preparatory Committee meeting and implementation of the Kassebaum Amendment, a concept largely generated by the NJCRAC committee, have been major foci.

NAAA ANTI-ISRAEL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Addressing the media campaigns against U.S. aid to Israel by the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA), the Israel Commission reviewed the consensus strategy of seeking free response time and generating "negative feedback," rather than engaging in a "battle of ads." The Commission noted that the NAAA ad copy has become more sophisticated, but the sporadic and poorly-timed campaign, the Commission agreed, has, thus far, had negligible impact. Anticipating new and perhaps more sustained efforts in the face of greater aid requests for Israel, the Commission suggested a base-line public opinion poll on the subject to help chart future strategy.

ABORTION AND CHILD CARE

The NJCRAC Task Force on Women called for a higher priority on the Jewish community relations agenda this coming year for both abortion and day care, required by the escalating threats to reproductive choice, and the dire status of day care in America. Holly Sloane Smith, Program Coordinator for the National Council of Jewish Women, described the attacks on abortion, and warned that future public policy may be greatly influenced by prospective changes in the Supreme Court. Elinor Guggenheimer, President and Executive Director of the Child Care Action Campaign, an organization mobilizing support for a national day care system, stressed the critical need for day care, noting that 45% of all mothers of children under the age of one work full-time. Emphasizing the need for adequate standards, increased availability, and coordination of existing resources, Guggenheimer also called for incorporating family values into day care programs. The Task Force discussion stressed promoting joint CRC-Federation action, linking public policy and service-provider concerns.

COMPARABLE WORTH

As part of NJCRAC's process of exploring whether it should take a position on the issue of equal pay for jobs of comparable worth, the Equal Opportunity Commission, following up on its previous consideration of the topic, examined the complex problem of developing criteria to compare different types of jobs, a necessary step in any approach to pay equity. This aspect was addressed by Dr. Carol Possin, Research Associate for the Center for Women in Government, which is now developing such criteria as part of a comprehensive job evaluation study it is conducting covering all employees of the State of New York.

INTERNATIONAL GENOCIDE CONVENTION

Strategies for finally, after 35 years, gaining Senate ratification of the International Genocide Convention were discussed by the International Commission after a presentation by Craig Baab, Staff Director for Governmental Affairs of the American Bar Association, which is now actively backing the renewed ratification drive. Baab positively evaluated the possibility of passage in the new Congress, based on the "sense-of-the-Senate" Resolution passed in the final days of this past Congressional session, which endorsed the concept of the treaty, and committed the Senate to taking up ratification in the new session. Baab noted that decisions on specific tactics by the ad hoc group of organizations, in which NJCRAC participates, depend on who will be the next Senate's Foreign Relations Committee Chairman.

NJCRAC BUDGET REPORT

The Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, adopted the 1985 budget for NJCRAC. In presenting the budget, Bernard White, NJCRAC Treasurer and Co-Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, reported that, while tightly holding the line on most expenses, the \$1,226,000 budget reflects the integration into the operating budget of the valuable Campus Advisory Committee project, funded for the past three years by special funds raised by CJF on the condition that the CAC's \$55,000 annual cost be absorbed by NJCRAC in 1985. NJCRAC Chair Jacqueline Levine stressed the essential need for all communities to meet their "fair share" dues obligations 100%, and urged delegates to take an active role in their communities to assure this. The budget will be submitted to the LCBC for review and validation on November 14. Mrs. Levine also introduced Dov S. Zakheim, who has been on staff as Administrator/Comptroller since May.

1985 PLENARY SESSION

The Agenda Committee for the 1985 Plenum, which met Sunday, under the Chairmanship of Matthew Weinberg, who has been especially active in Plenum planning, reported to the Executive Committee, with Co-Chair Norman Tilles presenting the report. Projecting an exciting Plenum, which will be held at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, February 17-20, Mr. Tilles announced that Senator Lowell Weicker, a courageous defender of church-state separation, and John Jacob, President of the National Urban League, have already accepted an invitation to speak. Noting invitations in process to several more speakers of similar stature, he reported on plans for a full and significant agenda as well as the festive attractions planned by the San Francisco JCRC. He invited suggestions for workshop and forum topics or speakers to be sent to NJCRAC. Delegates were urged to make plans and reservations now.

OTHER ISSUES

Among the many other topics addressed at the round of meetings were:

- Marshalling community support for immigration law reform was discussed by the Equal Opportunity Commission, after an analysis of the bill's foun-
dering, on the issue of costs, in a House-Senate Conference Committee, by
NJCRAC Domestic Affairs Director Marlene Provizer, and a prognosis that
proponents will again actively push the measure in the new Congress.
- Both legislative and administrative (FCC) attempts at broadcast deregula-
tion were predicted by James Weitzman, Washington lawyer for the citizens'
group battling against license-renewal for racist radio station KTTL-FM, as
he addressed the Commission on Individual Freedom and Jewish Security,
which decided that special coordination techniques were needed in the admi-
nistrative arena.

- As a step in refining NJCRAC's adopted principles on Medicare into a more specific position, three anticipated approaches to address Medicare's growing financial crisis (the Administration's "catastrophic health care" plan, various recommendations of the Social Security Advisory Committee, the comprehensive Kennedy-Gephardt health care legislation) were outlined to the Equal Opportunity Commission by Ellen Witman, Legislative Director of the CJF Washington Action Office.
- The Commission on Individual Freedom and Jewish Security proposed the Plenum consider taking a position on campaign financing after examining the issue with the aid of American Jewish Congress General Counsel Will Maslow, who focused especially on legislation proposed by Rep. Obey (D-WI).
- The Committee on Community Consultation heard positive reports on regional CRC meetings in New England and New Jersey, and discussed the recent round of emergency regional church-state "consultations," which it recommended be replicated on other immediate action-oriented issues.

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1985 PLENARY SESSION

SAN FRANCISCO

FEBRUARY 17-20

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LET'S DISCUSS

REMARKS:

The last 'proper' bigotry

11-10-84

M.T.
M. Novak

IN my lifetime, I have never seen so much religious bigotry in a presidential campaign.

This time, it came from the left. Its victims were the evangelicals, including the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

You do not have to be an evangelical, or to agree with evangelicals, in order to walk a mile or two in their moccasins. If you try it, you will be surprised how much bigotry you face — and how blind others are to it.

They will take it as natural to put you down.

Bigotry against evangelicals has remained the last permissible bigotry.

Anti-black, anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, anti-women, anti-handicapped and other major forms of bigotry are easily spotted and publicly denounced.

But even "the best people" feel free to express bigotry against evangelicals.

Walter Mondale, in nearly all things else a thoroughly decent man, did so. He constructed

one of his better received stump speeches around a litany of abuse for the Rev. Falwell and a short list of other evangelicals.

But Mondale is not alone. Norman Lear's "People for the American Way" frankly situates the evangelicals outside the American way.

We have heard assertions that Jerry Falwell falls outside the American consensus; that he does not understand America; that he threatens to violate the U.S. Constitution. He stands accused, to widespread applause, of being both alien and seditious.

Code words are used. Emotions are played upon. Fears are engendered. Hatred is elicited.

Two principles here apply: the stereotyping of evangelicals, as if they are all alike and all hold the same views, and accusations by association rather than by evidence.

There is an ugliness in the air about evangeli-

By MICHAEL NOVAK

cal. That this is so in the Democratic Party is historically odd, since evangelical Southerners were a great pillar of the Roosevelt coalition, as more recently of Jimmy Carter's.

For those of us who have grown up in the culture of the Northeast, biases against evangelicals may be particularly entrenched but unconscious.

The rural style of evangelical Protestantism is not the religious style to which Catholics, Jews or even Northern city Protestants are accustomed. Its rhythms, metaphors, enthusiasms and fears are on a different wave length.

Somehow, we manage to accept evangelical Protestantism among blacks better than among whites.

A genuine ecumenical movement, a genuine pluralism, requires that evangelical Protestants be included. They have

some grievances to air, some hurts to voice, some good American spirit to share.

It is much better for this nation to have a "Moral Majority" than a "Silent Majority."

First, by breaking their silence, the evangelicals have learned that they are not a majority, but only a significant minority. They have also learned that other Americans do not spontaneously admire their morality. This has surprised some.

Second, by entering the national debate, they have been obliged to rethink their positions, develop larger sensitivities, expand their horizons, learn new forms of cooperation and civil argument.

Entering the national dialogue has been good for them — and for the rest of us.

Disagreement with evangelicals, as with other groups, is often necessary. It should be civil.