



# THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

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

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 107, Folder 4, Adath Israel Congregation [Toronto, Ont.]. 13  
December 1976.



# Wave Of 'Vote Christian' Drives Attacked, Supported

By RUSSEL CHANDLER

(c) 1976, The Los Angeles Times

Did politically conservative evangelistic Christians mount a concerted, well-organized drive to elect only so-called "real Christians" in November?

If so, how successful were apparent "born again" candidates who identified with the religious stance of President-elect Jimmy Carter?

An investigation by *The Los Angeles Times* strongly suggests there was a wave of Christian political activity to endorse and support particular candidates who were avowedly Christian.

But no monolithic movement of interlinked organizations campaigned to elect "God-centered" citizens to "rebuild America as a Christian republic" — as charged of some religious leaders.

TWO WEEKS before the election, a panel of leaders from several religions assailed the alleged "vote Christian" drives. They said such efforts "strike at the heart of the American democratic process and,

## The Week In Religion

even more fundamentally, at the principle of separation of church and state."

A handful of so-called "Christ-centered" candidates who were not incumbents won seats in Congress.

The American Jewish Committee (AJC), one of several groups which condemned "vote Christian" drives in an estimated 30 congressional districts, compiled a list of 21 names of apparent "born again" candidates it said were being promoted by evangelistic and fundamentalist groups. The list was released before the election.

Only two of the 21 won.

ANOTHER PICTURE of the success of "born again" candidates was presented, however, by Third Century Publishers, Arlington, Va. The firm was cited as part of a coalition that screened and endorsed candi-

dates on religious bases.

Bruce Gross, president of Third Century, said 21 candidates out of 54 listed in the October newsletter of Third Century as "Christ-centered candidates who won their primaries" were elected that Tuesday.

Candidates — winning and losing — in the California congressional races said after the election the "Christian issue" was a factor, though not decisive or significant.

Gross denied there was any "national concerted effort" to endorse or support particular candidates by his group or any of the others mentioned by the panel of critical religious leaders.

CITED WERE Third Century Publishers, the Christian Freedom Foundation (now disbanded) and the Christian Embassy, both in Washington, D.C., and Campus Cru-

sade for Christ International, headed by William Bright in Arrowhead Springs, Calif.

"No one has gone out and selected candidates and said 'We're going to run them,'" Gross declared.

The list circulated by the AJC apparently was compiled from several sources and included many of the 60 "Christ-centered" candidates listed in Third Century's October newsletter.

The panel protesting alleged vote-Christian drives included Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, inter-religious affairs director for the AJC; Episcopal Bishop Paul Moore of New York City; and the Rev. Joseph A. O'Hare, editor-in-chief of the national Catholic weekly, *America*.

WHEN TOLD only two of the 21 congressional candidates on the AJC list won, Rabbi Tanenbaum said, "To the degree that these candidates were identified as 'born-again Christians' and were making their appeal on that basis, then (the vote was) an indication that a great

proportion of the electorate rejects the notion of voting for a candidate on the basis of his religion."

Rabbi Tanenbaum said "the notion of creating a 'Christian Congress' has not died, though in this election it has suffered a substantial setback."

Speaking for himself and several other religious leaders, Rabbi Tanenbaum said the alleged drive is a revival of the radical right movement of 1950s McCarthyism under the banner of evangelicalism:

"It is an attempt to create a new political religion in America."

HE ADDED that those organizing the drive "don't consider (Jimmy) Carter a real Christian because of his liberal economic and politics."

Leaders of Christian organizations accused of being involved in the drive, such as Campus Crusade for Christ, vigorously deny their groups are engaged in partisan politics or that a candidate's acceptability must be tied to ultraconservative politics.

"It's a fantasy out of someone's mind that there was a concerted effort to take over the world," declared Pat Matrisciana. "There's no big conspiracy. It just sprang up here and there."

Matrisciana, a former staff member of Campus Crusade, until last summer headed an "information and education" organization to "reach the leadership of America." He now heads California Christians Active Politically.



May 30th, 1977, 9:00 p.m.

## Bio-Ethical Problems in Religion



**Rabbi Dr. Walter S. Wurzberger**  
President, Rabbinical Council of America  
Editor of "Tradition", Journal of  
Orthodox Jewish thought

Advances in medical science and genetics have opened new areas of conflict in religion. How do religions, and Judaism in particular, deal with euthanasia, abortion, transplants, and genetic engineering.

## Israel, Judaism and Christianity

The religious meaning of the Jewish State for Jews and Christians. The political State and redemption. Problems and solutions in Christians attitudes to the Jewish State.

## Religion and Media

The religious and moral response to manipulative communications. The issue of censorship. The Media-opiate for the masses?

### Adath Israel Congregation

37 Southbourne Avenue  
Downsview, Ontario

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Dr. H. L. Goodman

Chairman, Adult Study Committee:

Mrs. Sally Weisbrod

Admission fee:

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Institute leader and moderator

Honorary Patron **The Most Reverend E. W. Scott**  
Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada;  
Moderator of The Central Committee of  
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The World Council of Churches.

Seven lectures by international spokesman  
November 25th, 1976 to May 20th, 1977  
Adath Israel Congregation,  
37 Southbourne Avenue, Downsview, Ontario.  
Telephone 635-5340

November 25th, 1976, 9:00 p.m.

**Religion Responds to  
Modern Questions**



Keynote lecture by **The Most Reverend E. W. Scott**  
Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada;  
Moderator of The Central Committee of  
The World Council of Churches.

December 13th, 1976, 9:00 p.m.

**Religion and Modern Man**

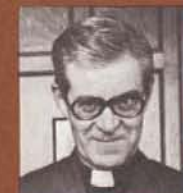


**Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum**  
Director, Inter Religious Affairs Department,  
American Jewish Committee

How has religion been challenged by modern science,  
psychology and social studies; by contemporary  
humanism and hedonism. Has religion a future?  
Has a consumption-oriented society a future?

March 14th, 1977, 9:00 p.m.

**The Religious Mosaic**



**Dr. Krister Stendahl**  
Dean, Harvard University, Divinity School

How can religion deal with the outsider, the dissident,  
the heretic, the unbeliever?  
Freedom of conscience and religious absolutism.  
The Vatican Council guidelines.  
The approach of Dialogue.

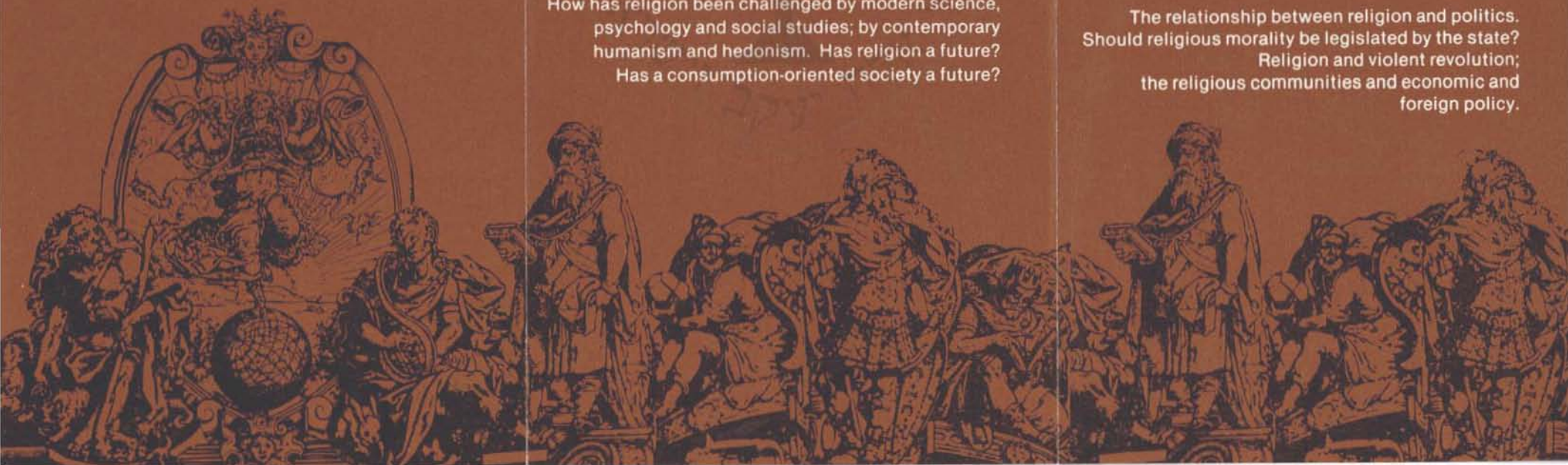
April 11th, 1977, 9:00 p.m.

**Religion and Political Power**



**Rabbi Dr. Seymour Siegel**  
Professor of Ethics, Jewish Theological Seminary,  
New York;  
Visiting Professor (1976-7),  
Kennedy Institute for Bio-Ethics, Washington, D.C.

The relationship between religion and politics.  
Should religious morality be legislated by the state?  
Religion and violent revolution;  
the religious communities and economic and  
foreign policy.





November 23, 1976

Rabbi Erwin Schild  
Adath Israel Congregation  
37 Southbourne Avenue  
Toronto (Downsview) Canada M3H 1A4

Dear Rabbi Schild,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of November 17th.

I was very impressed to read the program of the conference.

You had promised me that you would drop me a note confirming the arrangements regarding honorarium, schedule, and et cetera. I have not as yet received that from you. I would like to have it fairly shortly in order to complete our file.

As I mentioned to you, I have a standard arrangement with the JWB Lecture Bureau that my out-of-town lecture fee is \$500.00 plus expenses. I did indicate that I would try to accommodate to the norms which you set for some of the other lecturers. But it is an extremely expensive thing for me to take off a day for conferences such as this and therefore I'd like to have an understanding as much as possible in advance.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

ERWIN SCHILD, M.A.

*on tape*  
*(F- Dec 13)*

Rabbi

ADATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION  
37 Southbourne Avenue  
Toronto (Downsview) Canada  
M3H 1A4

November 17th, 1976  
24 Cheshvan, 5737

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, Director,  
Interreligious Affairs Department,  
American Jewish Committee,  
165 East 56th Street,  
New York, New York, 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

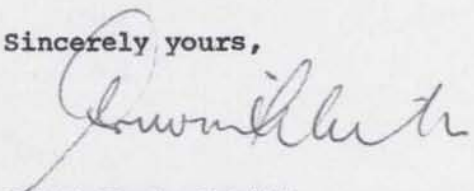
Enclosed please find two copies of a brochure describing the institute in which you kindly agreed to participate.

I will be further in touch with you regarding some of the details and the necessary arrangements. In the meantime please accept my heartfelt thanks for your generous acceptance of my invitation.

Under separate cover I am mailing you our Congregational bulletin which announces the opening of the series. My article on page three will be of interest to you.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Erwin Schild.

CB.ecnl.

