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MS-831: Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation Records, 1980–2008.
Series B: Commission on Jewish Education in North America (CJENA). 1980–1993.
Subseries 2: Commissioner and Consultant Biographical Files, 1987–1993.

Box
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Appleby, Ron, 1988-1989.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

INTERVIEW WITH
RONALD APPLEBY

ARTHUR J. NAPARSTEK
MAY 1, 1989

I began the interview with a review of where we were at the end of the December 13th meeting and asked Ron if he agreed that the Commission came to a consensus on the personnel and community options as enabling and preconditions in relationship to the programmatic options. Ron indicated he was in agreement with that.

I then asked Ron if he was clear on the mission of the Commission. Ron indicated clarity in terms of the Commission's objective as being implementation and to bring about change, further to deal with change in a systemic way. I decided that, with Ron, it was desirable to cover the IJE and the major ideas behind it in a more complete way. With regard to the IJE, Ron is very positive. He believes that the federation is a key player in bringing about any kind of change.

He also feels that personnel is a key issue, that even in Toronto where teachers are paid well, teaching is a low status profession. Ron does not believe money is the critical issue in terms of teaching. It cannot be just money, focus has to be on upgrading the profession as a whole by having the profession be perceived by others in the community as high status. We have to work on ease of entry, professional development, and making it fulfilling.

He also feels that personnel should be handled on a national or local level. Teacher training, he indicated, should be handled on a national level or regional level, as it cannot be accomplished locally. It has to be coordinated through some kind of national mechanism.

As we began our discussion of how that coordination would take place, I explained to Ron our thinking behind the IJE. Ron's response to the overall idea was that the IJE could help Toronto build up the quality of the profession. It could link York University to other universities on the continent like HUC, Yeshiva University and the Seminary in helping to build a model for the profession.

We then began to discuss specifics related to the IJE.

1. Criteria for Choosing Sites

Ron felt the criteria for choosing a community action site could be the local university and the expression of interest in the site. Other criteria could be a judgment as to the strength of the Jewish community, the ability of the local community to raise funds on a matching basis, and the ability of the community to make proposals.

2. Quality of Projects

Ron felt that the screening and evaluation of projects was very important. National organizations could play that role like JESNA or JWB as part of the screening process. Projects have to be consistent with its mission as laid out by the Commission and IJE, that is, projects should be focused on bringing about systemic change and have full potential for impact and application.

3. Negotiations with Existing Institutions

How will negotiations with existing institutions in the community be conducted? Ron felt that the federation was key from a funding point of view. The mechanism had to be the federation. Make it as high on the agenda as possible.

4. Appropriate Funding

How will appropriate funding sources be matched with specific projects? Here again, Ron felt that the federation was the focus point.

5. How will Innovations be Diffused from One Community Action Site to Another?

Ron thought that we needed to develop a communication instrument. He also thought that an annual formal convocation might work. This would provide a system of accountability and reporting through annual convenings, perhaps through the CJF General Assembly.

6. How will a central mechanism work with local communities to help them rise to their full stature without imposing something on them from the top down?

Ron felt that we could not leave out the stakeholders or the lay community, that partnerships needed to be developed. Local people can get excited where there is interest. Make the lay people players. It cannot be imposed but instead a process has to be initiated. There are various methods to doing that. Ron suggested that what might work in Toronto would be a white paper that could become the focal point of debate.

With regard to the June 14th meeting, Ron will be attending. He felt the key aspect of that meeting was to get people involved, get them excited with the process and with the ideas and vision that are behind the IJE. The IJE should evolve out of a set of ideas that, in effect, justify it as a mechanism for change.

* Letters to Ain + Fishel
* Memo to A & H

①

TO: Morton L. Mandel FROM: Henry L. Zucker DATE: 8/24/88
NAME NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

REPLYING TO
YOUR MEMO OF: _____

SUBJECT:

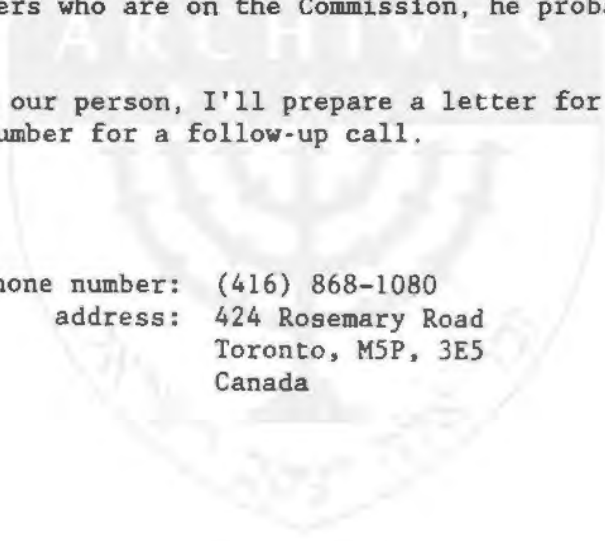
It has been suggested that Canada should be better represented on the Commission. Charles Bronfman suggested the name of Lionel Schipper of Toronto. Seymour Fox believes that we should get an educator ~~or a rabbi~~ and is checking out who that should be.

Steve Ain tells me that Lionel Schipper is an "outstanding person" but that Jewish education is not his area of interest. He believes a much better choice, both because of his essential competence and his interest in Jewish education, is Ron Appelby. He thinks that Ron would be an excellent addition to our group. He thinks we might have difficulty getting him to serve because of time pressure, but that if you would telephone him and, recognizing the names of other leaders who are on the Commission, he probably could be induced to say yes.

If you think Ron is our person, I'll prepare a letter for you to him and give you his telephone number for a follow-up call.

Ron Appelby's telephone number: (416) 868-1080
address: 424 Rosemary Road
Toronto, M5P, 3E5
Canada

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TO: Morton L. Mandel
NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

FROM: Henry L. Zucker
NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

DATE: 8/31/88
REPLYING TO
YOUR MEMO OF: _____

HRZ

SUBJECT:

Manny Batshaw advises me that Charles Bronfman had already asked Lionel Schipper to serve on the Commission. It appears, therefore, that we have no choice but to ask him. We still have the option of adding Ron Appelby as well. Let me know what you think about that. } ?

Seymour Fox is looking for a Canadian educator or a rabbi to add to the Commission. I have not heard anything from him about this. *no*



Hank

Let's discuss in October

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TO: Morton L. Mandel
Arthur J. Naparstek
NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

FROM: Henry L. Zucker
NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

DATE: 10/28/88
REPLYING TO
YOUR MEMO OF: _____

HLZ

SUBJECT:

I talked with Ron Appelby to follow up your letter of October 17th inviting him to serve on the Commission. Ron says he is delighted to serve. He feels this would be an important investment of his time. He plans to attend the December 13 meeting.



great!

HLZ

INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE

October 17, 1988

Dear Ron:

I would like to invite you to join me in a new initiative. The Mandel Associated Foundations has been organizing a Commission on Jewish Education in North America, which functions in cooperation with the JWB and JESNA and in collaboration with the CJF.

The purpose of this Commission is to bring together the best lay and professional minds we can assemble to make a positive impact on the quality of Jewish education in the United States and Canada.

We believe that Jewish education needs a great deal of improvement if it is to make its appropriate contribution to the constructive continuity of the Jewish people. We believe that our Commission has a good chance to bring about important results, because American Jewish leadership is now sufficiently concerned to make this a high priority, and because there are important new financial resources available for Jewish education if we show how these resources can be utilized to good effect.

Enclosed is a paper describing our concept of the work of the Commission. It reflects the thinking of a small group that worked to express the idea behind the Commission, which was affirmed at the first Commission meeting held on August 1, 1988. The initial exchange of ideas at this meeting was exciting and informative, and met with a very positive response from the participants. I am also enclosing a list of those who already serve on the Commission and a copy of the minutes from the August 1 meeting.

I hope you will serve as a member of this Commission. It will meet four to five times over the next eighteen months. It has the benefit of a professional staff and consultants who have begun to do the research directed by the Commission, and who staff the Commission and its subgroups as well.

Our work has just begun. The second meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UJA Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, 130 East 59th Street, New York, New York.

I know that you can be an important addition to the Commission, and I hope that you will agree to participate.

Sincerely,


MORTON L. MANDEL

Mr. Ronald Appelby
424 Rosemary Road
Toronto, M5P 3E5
Canada

Enclosures

bcc: CHARLES BRONFMAN
STEVE AIN