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**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**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.

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Box  
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Folder  
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Crown, Lester, 1989.

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

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Commissioner CONTACT Sheet

Name Lester Crown

Assigned to SF

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Off. phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Telex \_\_\_\_\_

Comments Influential, potential funder, interested in supplementary school, the reform constituency and the non-committed.

Date	Nature of Contact/Status	Next Steps/Action Needed
7/12/88	SF Visit - Pre s/i interview SF letter Post-meeting	
2/17/89	SF Visit - also visit with Suzanne and Barbara Mander	SF & MLM will meet with LC 4/89.
12/88	SF meeting Barbara Mander (niece)	Stated to host small group meeting.

COMMISSION  
ON JEWISH EDUCATION  
IN NORTH AMERICA

4500 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103  
216/391-8300

Commissioners

Morton I. Mandel  
Chairman  
Mona Riklis Ackerman  
Ronald Appleby  
David Arnow  
Mandell L. Berman  
Jack Bieler  
Charles R. Bronfman  
John C. Colman  
Maurice S. Corson  
Lester Crown  
David Dubin  
Stuart E. Eizenstat  
Joshua Elkin  
Eli N. Evans  
Irwin S. Field  
Max M. Fisher  
Alfred Gottschalk  
Arthur Green  
Irving Greenberg  
Robert I. Hiller  
David Hirschhorn  
Carol K. Ingall  
Ludwig Jesselson  
Henry Koschitzky  
Mark Lainer  
Norman Lamm  
Sara S. Lee  
Seymour Martin Lipset  
Haskel Lookstein  
Robert E. Loup  
Matthew J. Maryles  
Florence Melton  
Donald R. Mintz  
Lester Pollack  
Charles Ranner  
Esther Leah Ritz  
Harriet L. Rosenthal  
Alvin I. Schiff  
Lowell H. Schipper  
Ismar Schorsch  
Harold M. Schulweis  
Daniel S. Shapiro  
Margaret W. Tishman  
Isadore Twersky  
Bennett Yanowitz  
Isaiah Zeklin

January 26, 1989

Dear Mr. Crown,

Enclosed are three sets of the background materials from the Commission on Jewish Education in North America. We are sending them at the request of Professor Seymour Fox, in preparation for your meeting with him on January 30.

Sincerely,



Arthur J. Naparstek

Director

Senior Policy Advisors

David S. Ariel  
Seymour Fox  
Annette Hochstein  
Stephen H. Hoffman  
Arthur J. Naparstek  
Arthur Rotman  
Carmel Schwartz  
Herman D. Stein  
Jonathan Woocher  
Henry L. Zucker

Director

Arthur J. Naparstek

Staff

Rachel M. Gubitz  
Virginia E. Levi  
Joseph Reimer

Mr. Lester Crown  
300 West Washington Street  
Chicago, IL 60606

*Mailed Fed Exp.  
1/26*

crown/1FOX-W

TOWARDS THE THIRD COMMISSION MEETING

INTERVIEW OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER NAME: MR. LESTER CROWN

INTERVIEWER: SEYMOUR FOX

DATE: MONDAY, MAY 8, 1989 10:30-12:30 P.M.

PLACE: CHICAGO, ILL.

Summary:

Mr. Crown reiterated his interest in having the Commission wait for the results of the work of individual foundations and build on their results (as he had mentioned in his meeting with Mr. Mandel in New York in April). Thus we would know what works before we went into any kind of macro activity.

Susan Crown and Barbara Manilow attending the meeting as well.

Mr. Crown like the idea of discussing what we know currently from best practice and putting that together in first conceptions of what demonstration sites could be, but continued to return to giving the foundations an opportunity to "do their thing."

On the other hand, he is looking for whatever possible input the Commission could have in the work of his foundation and he thought that other foundations are equally interested.

He described his own conversations with Larry Tisch and trying to get him to offer his expertise and understanding of the media for the work of Jewish education. He also described his conversations with Evans on this issue.

Mr. Crown sees essentially two major roles of the Commission: one is to stimulate the interest of individuals, funders and foundations. He believes that the Commission has already succeeded in doing this. Second is to market, diffuse, distribute information on anything related to best practice, to vision, etc.

He showed a good deal of interest in the Cleveland Commission and I promised him that we would send the report of the Cleveland Commission. He would like most of this material to be funneled not only through him, but through Barbara Manilow and Susan Crown. I agreed to stay in contact, not only with Mr. Crown, but with Barbara and Susan.

Mr. Crown will not be able to attend the meeting on the 14th; he will be at the Air Show in Paris selling airplanes.

In the conversation, much interest was expressed about the area of personnel. They brought to my attention one project which they believe has had some impact in Chicago in the area of general education. It's called the Golden Apple Award, and its director is Dren Geerof. The Foundation of Excellence in Teaching. (The number is 312-407-0006.)

Jonathan Woocher is going to be involved in a series of consultations for the Crown Foundation and I think we ought to coordinate our efforts with his. They have not settled on their area of work.

Mr. Crown thinks it would be useful to arrange a meeting of the funders and he would be willing to participate in it. I think we ought to plan that meeting as soon as we can.

In this meeting Mr. Crown showed a great deal of interest and support for the work of the Commission and though he will be missed on the 14th, I think that his absence should not be interpreted as lack of interest.

Despite the fact that he was under great business pressure, he carried on a full meeting and devoted a good deal of energy and time to our agenda.

TO: Morton L. Mandel  
NAME  
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

FROM: Virginia F. Levi  
NAME  
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

DATE: 9/26/89  
REPLYING TO  
YOUR MEMO OF: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: PHONE CALL TO LESTER CROWN

Seymour Fox has asked that you make a telephone call to Lester Crown to bring him up to date on Commission matters. In addition, because we are having a difficult time scheduling an appointment for SF with Crown, he asks that you encourage Mr. Crown to meet with him.

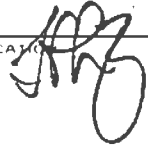
Crown is out of town until Thursday, September 28. His phone number is (312) 372-3600.

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TO: Morton L. Mandel  
NAME  
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

FROM: Henry L. Zucker  
NAME  
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

DATE: 10/11/89  
REPLYING TO  
YOUR MEMO OF: \_\_\_\_\_



SUBJECT:

I had an excellent meeting with Lester Crown yesterday in his office. He is enthusiastic about the work of the Commission and is indebted to you for your leadership of the group.

I brought him up to date on the last meeting of the Commission and what we have done since that meeting to prepare for the October 23 meeting. We talked about this meeting number four being a transition meeting, in which we will be moving from ideas and research to the preparation of findings and implementation recommendations. He understands that, at meeting number five in February, we will develop recommendations and that, at meeting six in June, we will consider the Commission's report.

He agrees that grading up personnel is a key to better Jewish education. The other major key is involving top community leadership in Jewish education work, and in convincing the community that Jewish continuity and Jewish education are a top community priority. Community climate will have to be created to grade up Jewish education to its appropriate position in the Jewish community priority system.

It is obligatory to produce new financing. We agreed that, over the long term, the community must make the basic investment. Federations will have to produce adequate financing for a high grade program. In addition, foundations should be asked to finance the program, at least for the first five years, to give it a quick start and to test innovations and new ideas. They should produce substantial sums of money to fund the implementation mechanism and best practices and a variety of programmatic options, such as Israel-related programs, all day schools and pre-school programs.

We talked about our current outreach to educators, federations, foundations and a variety of national organizations and indicated that outreach will accelerate in the months ahead.

Crown believes that a number of foundations are prepared to make a major new investment in Jewish education. Some of them, including the Crown Foundation, have already begun to do this. Others are being stimulated to do this through the work of the Commission. The total contribution of the foundations, whether already in place, planned or projected, should be linked with the work of the Commission. The foundations should find a way of working together so as to produce a maximum impact. Crown likes the idea of encouraging foundations to make a commitment to set aside a sizeable sum of money to be applied by the foundation over the next five years to support recommendations which flow out of the Commission's work. The Crown Foundation is preparing to announce a

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program in conjunction with JESNA to encourage best practices. It will establish a program to select best practices around the country, award a prize to the persons responsible, and grant a substantial sum of money to enable the organization to develop its program. Several selections would be made each year. The projected budget for the program comes to about \$1,250,000 a year. The program would be funded on a year-to-year basis, and it is anticipated that it would go on for an indefinite number of years.

Crown believes that it would be timely to convene ten to fifteen foundation principals to talk about their plans in the field of Jewish education. He indicated that, in 1986, Edgar Bronfman and Leslie Wexner brought together a group of such persons who found that their common program denominator was Jewish education. They were enthusiastic about the meeting which went on through dinner until 2 a.m. In addition to Bronfman and Wexner, attendees included Belfer, Belzberg, Crown, Fisher, Hoffberger, Meyerhoff, and Taubman. Larry Tisch, Charles Bronfman and Walter Annenberg were invited, but did not attend. Crown believes that the same group should be called together again, plus the foundation principals on the Commission and those whose executives meet together in the Foundation Executives Group. Each foundation principal should be asked to lay out their own program and plans. Hopefully, some will also declare their willingness to set aside funds for ideas that are developed by the Commission.

Crown believes the meeting of foundation principals should be convened through a personal invitation rather than through an organizational invitation, because more of the principals are likely to respond to a personal invitation. He suggested that the invitation be issued by Edgar Bronfman or Larry Tisch, but he is by no means committed to either one.

Crown said that the invitation should refer to the 1986 meeting and to the work of the Commission. It should indicate that some of the foundations have begun to move ahead with Jewish education programs. Meantime, Mort Mandel has organized this great Commission on Jewish Education and the group should hear of its work and should tell what they have been doing and would consider doing. Crown believes this would be a great approach to the meeting's agenda.

Crown suggested that the principals might want to have future meetings, perhaps once a year, to keep in touch and to inform each other of their programs. This should be determined by the group when they meet.

Crown believes that it would be useful for someone to contact each invitee personally to encourage their attendance and also to help build an appropriate agenda.