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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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Fox, Seymour, 1988-1989.

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

Comptroller reveals:

Agency built \$1 million white elephant

By CHARLES HOFFMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Youth Aliya Department of the Jewish Agency spent close to \$1 million to build an educational centre in Galilee which stood empty and unused for over two years, because funds could not be found to operate the facility. Most of the building costs were covered by a donation of \$750,000 from Hadassah, which named the centre in honour of one of its past presidents.

This is one of the main findings in the annual report of the Agency Comptroller, which is to be distributed today to delegates to the Agency assembly.

The report noted that the decision to build the centre at the religious settlement of Hoshaya was taken without determining whether it was really needed and without ensuring that funds to run the centre would be available. The building also incurred damage from having stood empty so long.

The report also discussed Youth Aliya's "projects" or long-term study programmes for Diaspora youth, which in 1986/87 involved 640 pupils. The report found that subsidies for many of these programmes were too liberal and varied widely, and that the department had been lax in granting special discounts and in collecting fees from parents.

The comptroller also examined the Jerusalem Fellows Programme, designed to develop an elite cadre of Jewish educators for the Diaspora. Since it began in 1982, the programme spent \$2.7m. to train 37 educators, 10 of them

from Israel, at an average annual cost of \$32,500 per student.

The comptroller found that the unusual budgetary arrangements for this programme allowed it to operate virtually independently of the standard administrative and accounting procedures followed by the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization.

The programme was originally funded by a donation from Bank Leumi, which contributed a total of \$1.95m. through 1986/87. After the funding from the bank ceased, the Jerusalem Fellows was funded by grants from the Joint Programme for Jewish Education, which uses Agency funds to support projects for Diaspora Jewish education. The comptroller noted that during 1986/87 and 1987/88, half the money at the disposal of the Joint Programme went to the Jerusalem Fellows.

The comptroller noted that the same person - Prof. Shlomo (Seymour) Fox - serves both as the professional director of the Jerusalem Fellows programme and of the Jewish education committee of the Jewish Agency, and that both units are housed in the same building. And some of the committee's expenses were charged without authorization to the fellows programme.

(The report did not mention, however, that Fox also occupies a key position in the Joint Programme, which funds both the fellows programme and the Jewish education committee. Nor did it mention that the Jewish education committee, which Fox directs, is supposed to monitor expenses of

beneficiary bodies such as the fellows and the Joint Programme. The interlocking between these bodies is intensified by the fact that the same person - Morton Mandel of Cleveland - serves as the lay chairman of both the Joint Programme and the committee.)

In the report on the Amigur public housing company, the comptroller noted that "despite the (administrative) deficiencies and need for improvement, this is a well-managed company which properly maintains" the assets under its responsibility. Amigur operates in 13 development towns, where it owns some 28,000 flats and manages 7,000 others that are owned by the government. The value of its assets is roughly estimated at between \$400 and \$500m.

During the past four years, Amigur has had an average of about 2,300 empty flats in its housing stock each year. Of these there are about 1,000 flats that have little chance of being sold, because they are too small, in run-down condition, or in unattractive locations. In the past four years, Amigur has sold over 4,500 flats.

The report said that despite the importance attached by Amigur to the setting up of house committees in its buildings to take care of cleaning and routine maintenance, the company had neglected to provide guidelines for setting up such committees or to ensure that they are functioning properly.

Until rents were raised sharply in 1986/87, the income from rent "was at times lower than the cost of collecting and recording it." The vast majority of Amigur tenants are welfare cases or others eligible for subsidized rents.



Yitzhak Navon

(Karen Ben-Zion)

'School cuts are turning us into nation of mediocrities'

By ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon warned the cabinet yesterday that the repeated cuts in his ministry's budget would eventually cause such a deterioration in the level of education, that some future government would be forced to set up a commission of inquiry on the education system, as it has done with regard to the health system.

Noting that budget cuts have reduced the overall number of teaching hours by one fifth over the past nine years, Navon said: "The Israelis are gradually becoming a nation of mediocrities. Finance Minister Moshe Nissim shows more understanding today than he did when he first took over the Treasury, but it is far from enough on his part, when

Although there was no outcome to the discussion, in which several ministers took part, the following were among the points made:

□ Gad Yaacobi: "The key is to start considering money spent on education as investment rather than consumption."

□ Yosef Shapira: "We must search out among the economically disadvantaged strata the youngsters with a high intellectual potential."

□ Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslini: "Our school system is being undermined by the spread of under-the-counter education, on an extra-curricular basis, restricted to the children whose parents can afford to pay extra."

□ Moshe Arens: "We shall start to be sorry, faster than we think, for

No more waiting for phones in some towns

By JUDY SIEGEL

For the first time in the history of

Air Force and Aircraft Industries face off

By KENNETH KAPLAN
Post Defence Reporter

The confrontation between the Israel Aircraft Industries and the Israel Air Force over the future of the B3 (Lavi avionics test platform) project will not be resolved until Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin returns from the U.S., sources in the IAI said last night. The sources said

of the loose ends left, following cancellation of the Lavi project. After the project was cancelled, the government decided to allocate \$100 million per year towards maintaining the level of flight technologies in local industries. Control of the funds was given to the Air Force to use as it saw fit, though it was understood that the IAI was the main address

also be sold abroad.

Some observers, however, dispute that the technology can be applied to other aircraft, charging that the purpose of the allocation was to soften the blow to the IAI, and limit the number of layoffs following the Lavi's cancellation.

The dispute is over the source of funding for the B3 project, with the

decided to take back and repair on its own a slightly damaged F-15. The F-15 had been turned over to the IAI as the prototype for the F-15 upgrading programme that was to begin shortly, but was damaged during landing.

Air Force sources said the IAI technicians were not equipped to repair the damage, and until the dis-

F

Dear Art,

Here is a first stab at questions to be answered for the fact sheet towards the first Commission meeting. We will refine it as we work.

I will talk to Perry Davis in the next few minutes.

When we have the data we will suggest the principles by which it is to be analysed and the form in which it is to be presented. Do you think that it might be a good idea for the senior policy advisors to approve this -- and all other printed material at our meeting in July?

We will be sending the revised interview schedule in the next few days.

I think it is important to take a final decision on who interviews whom and have a phone conversation on how to arrange the logistics.

Best Regards,


Seymour

Review data - Gap is Canada -
Comparative numbers
Public / private schools.

mna6688

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

DATA SHEET

THE DATA SHOULD PROVIDE IN A CONCISE AND DIRECT FORM A FIRST PICTURE OF :

- 1.THE FIELD OF JEWISH EDUCATION IN NORTH AMERICA TODAY
- 2.THE GAPS -- THE PROBLEMS

OUR QUESTIONS:

- **** WHAT ARE THE RELEVANT PARAMETERS
 - **** DOES THE DATA EXIST
 - **** HOW EASILY ACCESSIBLE IS IT?
-

- 1.DEMOGRAPHIC DATA: TOTAL POPULATION
AGE GROUPS (WHICH?)
TOTAL ENROLLMENT IN JEWISH EDUCATION OF ALL
TYPES -- AT GIVEN TIME (NOW) BY AGE
-- AT ANY TIME IN THEIR SCHOOLING YEARS
(DEFINE ENROLLMENT)

This data should be gathered from authoritative statistical sources and checked with :
CJF research department; Joey Riemer; Steven M.Cohen; A.Schiff;
etc...

2.EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS (FORMAL AND INFORMAL)

a. NUMBER OF:

EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTIONS

- IN JCC'S
- IN SYNAGOGUES
- OTHER

DAY-SCHOOLS (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; HIGH SCHOOL)

SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOLS (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; HIGH SCHOOL)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT JCC'S

YOUTH MOVEMENTS

SUMMER CAMPS

COLLEGE/GRAD JEWISH STUDIES COURSES

ADULT EDUCATION (SYNAGOGUES, JCC'S, FEDERATIONS, BUREAUS,
ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS HADASSAH, HILLEL, ETC...)

b. PARTICIPANTS IN PROGRAMS (ABSOLUTE AND RATIO'S BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION, PROGRAM AND BY AGE GROUP)

The best starting point is probably the Hebrew University's joint data project with JESNA. Start at JESNA for this data -- they may already have the new printouts. Then check with Schiff; Riemer, JWB, Riesman, etc.

3. NATIONAL AND LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS - INSTITUTIONS

BUREAUS

Other local educational institutional structures

The denominations and their educational institutions and structures.

4. PERSONNEL --- THE EDUCATORS:

- * NUMBERS BY TYPE OF INSTITUTIONS (SEE LIST #2 ABOVE)
- * NUMBERS BY LEVEL AND FUNCTION
- * PROFILE - EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, ISRAELIS,
- * EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS ; SALARIES, BENEFITS
- * FULL-TIME; PART-TIME
- * TURNOVER (RETENTION)
- * RECRUITMENT

5. JOBS:

- * POSITIONS (BY TYPE)
- * FILLED (BY QUALIFIED/LESS THAN QUALIFIED)
- * UNFILLED

Try the placement bureaus JESNA and the denominations; Sylvia Ettenberg at JTS; etc...

6. TRAINING INSTITUTIONS BY PROGRAM TYPE, NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND ANNUAL NUMBER OF GRADUATES (WHERE THEY ARE?)

FULL TIME PROGRAMS

PART-TIME

IN-SERVICE

--Bureaus

--On the Job Training Programs (in schools; JCC's etc..)

PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL

-- Short term (e.g. Summer programs at Melton; etc..)

-- Long-term (e.g. Machon Gold; Greenberg Institute; Melton Center; other)

JESNA did a survey in 1986. They should have it on file. Includes economic data.

Ask Joey Riemer and people at Brandeis. See "Jewish Education" - special issue. Brandeis Conference (publication).

7. FINANCIAL DATA

- *COST
- *FUNDING
- *GRANTS

Start with the research departments of JWB and CJP. Check with JESNA and with Schiff. Check with Senior federation planner such as Huberman; Jack Ukeles knows a lot.

For all categories the data should be checked with top experts. No new data should be created; only available data should be sought.

THE DATA SHOULD HELP US DEAL WITH A DEFINITION OF NEEDS, GAPS, FURTHER DATA THAT MUST BE GATHERED.

IN ORDER TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT COULD WE:

USE ONE MAJOR METROPOLITAN CENTER AS EXAMPLE/CASE? (e.g. Los Angeles study of 1982?)

USE MEDIUM CITY

USE SMALL COMMUNITY (Ask Susan Wall about New Haven)

TO: Morton L. Mandel
NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

FROM: Arthur J. Naparstek
NAME *AN*
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

DATE: 9/20/88
REPLYING TO
YOUR MEMO OF: _____

SUBJECT:

In talking with SF on Sunday, it became clear that his energy and enthusiasm, which in most instances is a plus, may now be a problem. I indicated that he was generating a powerful process that I was not part of and would have trouble representing to the Commission. I also indicated that we needed substantive papers, not strategies.

I said the following: "Seymour, I have great respect for you and what you are doing, but I am beginning to feel that I am not in charge of what is happening." I went on to say, "Perhaps we can play different roles--you take greater public responsibility for the Commission, maybe become the director, and I play more of a dean's role. In that role I would dedicate full support to you and Annette."

Seymour's response: "Art, I can't be director, and if you could spend the time with AH and me in Israel, it would all work out."

On Monday I spoke with HLZ about the aforementioned, and he agreed that SF's work lacked focus. Hank put forward the attached memo. For now, I have asked SF and AH to carry on, but we will have to take a close look at the process in October.

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NATIV POLICY AND PLANNING CONSULTANTS
P.O.B. 4497, Jerusalem 91044
Telephone: 972-2-662296
Facsimile No. 972-2-699951

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

TO: Arl Nafaratan
FAX NO.: 001-215 391 8327
FROM: Seymour Fox
DATE: September 7, 1988
Number of pages: 2



NOTES FOR JESNA

1. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THE COMMUNAL, PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT THE COMMISSION REPRESENTS.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THIS COULD HAVE BEEN DONE BY JESNA, THE COMMISSION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION. THE ROLE THE FOUNDATIONS HAVE AND CAN PLAY SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THEM.

2. ANOTHER POINT THAT YOU MIGHT USE, IF YOU NEED TO, IS: THE COMMISSION'S VIEW OF EDUCATION INCLUDES INFORMAL AND FORMAL EDUCATION AND JESNA ONLY DEALS WITH FORMAL. THAT IS WHY THE PARTNERSHIP WITH JWB.

3. I WOULD BE CAREFUL AGREEING PREMATURELY TO USING JESNA CONFERENCES ^{VEHICLE FOR THE} THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS A MAJOR INTERPRETATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THESE CONFERENCES ARE WELL ORGANIZED AND WELL PREPARED - IT MAY BE USEFUL TO USE THE CONFERENCES AS PART OF OUR P.R. PROGRAM. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE COMMISSION IS TO HELP BUILD JESNA. AT PRESENT IT IS A WEAK ORGANIZATION; THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ATTRACT THE KIND OF LAY LEADERSHIP THAT THEY NEED.

4. WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT SOME OF THE BUREAUS, TAKE NEW YORK, DO NOT ACCEPT JESNA AS A SPOKESMAN.

Best Regards
SE

September 7, 1988

Professor Seymour Fox
32 Harav Berlin Street
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Seymour,

The work of your Commission on Jewish Education in North America has recently come to my attention. From my exposure to Israel since we made aliyah in 1972, from the perspective of having been in the professional television industry since 1950, I would like to urge you - at the risk of saying the obvious - to seriously consider the use of videotape as a major priority in your educational activities. The quality of education it can provide, the extraordinary cost-efficiency of videotape productions, plus the low-cost availability of VHS equipment offer unprecedented opportunities for Jewish education.

We all know that there is not enough money for qualified teachers. But we can enhance the effectiveness of regular teachers by providing them with professionally constructed courses on videotape that are presented by outstanding teachers. So many studies are so basic - learning Hebrew, understanding the Bible, the history of Zionism; these alone are subjects that are needed throughout the educational system, can be professionally produced as videotaped lessons, and will have a life-span of at least ten years. These can be enhanced with productions covering more specific subjects. If copies were distributed to Jewish day schools and synagogues throughout the country the cost-efficiency would be extraordinary. So would the improvement in the quality of education.

This is just scratching the surface of videotape's enormous potential.

Professor Seymour Fox
Page 2
September 7, 1988

I am taking the liberty of enclosing a videotape of a one-hour TV special marking the 40th anniversary of Israel. It was done at our initiative and was viewed by several million Americans on a large number of commercial television stations throughout the United States and on cable television. This is a simple illustration of how much impact video can have.

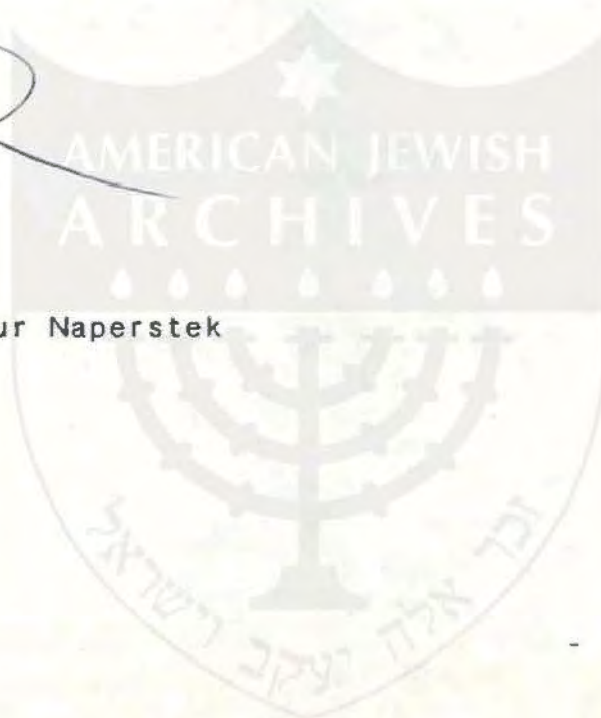
I imagine it will take many years for your plans to coalesce but I did want to urge you to seriously study and consider the cost-efficiency and the effectiveness of videotape for a public that is now well into its second generation of the habit pattern of gathering information through television.

Cordially,


Yale Roe

YR:ls
Encl.

cc: Dean Arthur Naperstek



Premier Industrial Foundation

4500 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44103

December 27, 1988

Dear Seymour:

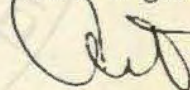
Aaron and I enjoyed spending Shabbot with your wonderful family. Please extend my very best to Sue.

My visit was particularly gratifying because I now have a better understanding of your role in Israel which has made a significant impact in creating new institutions that serve Jewish people throughout the world.

I am very impressed with The Jerusalem Fellows Program, The Melton Center and The Institute for Innovation & Education. The quality and excellence of each program is extraordinary.

Again, thanks for a wonderful evening. I am proud to be associated with you.

Warm regards,



Arthur J. Naparstek,
President

Mr. Seymour Fox
Nativ Policy & Planning
Consultants
10 Yehoshafat Street
Jerusalem, Israel 93152

Filed
12/27/88

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

AS OF JAN 11 '85 7:11

TIME	TO/FROM	MODE	MIN/SEC	PG	STATUS
7:10	-NATIU>p972 2 699951	G3-S	0/25	00	INC

Isakella



COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

AS OF JAN 11 '89 7:14

TIME	TO/FROM	MODE	MIN/SEC	PG	STATUS
7:13	NATIVE p872 2 699951	G3-S	0/27	00	INC

Isabelle



COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

AS OF JAN 11 '89 9:12

TIME	TO/FROM	MODE	MIN/SEC	PG	STATUS
9:10	*NATIVE p972 2 699951	63-S	1/12	01	OK

Isabelle





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SEYMOUR FOX

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COMPANY NATIV - JERUSALEM

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

FROM:

NAME ART NAPARSTEK

COMPANY PREMIER FOUNDATION

DEPARTMENT _____

COST CENTER 090

TELEX NO.: 6873015 PREMI UW

FAX NO.: 2163918327

TIME SENT:

MESSAGE:

Call with SF, AH, HLZ, AJN and VFL OK for 9:00 a.m. on January 12.

I spoke with Joe Reimer and he will call you tomorrow. If there is a problem, please let me know.

COMMISSION
ON JEWISH EDUCATION
IN NORTH AMERICA

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

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May 5, 1989

Professor Seymour Fox
The Jerusalem Fellows
22A Hatzfira Street
Jerusalem, Israel 93152

Dear Seymour:

As you know, the next meeting of the Commission on Jewish Education in North America is scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14 at Hebrew Union College, 1 West 4th Street, New York City.

This will confirm plans to hold a debriefing session on Thursday, June 15 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at JWB, 15 East 26th Street, New York City.

Please mark your calendar and confirm your plans to attend these meetings by returning the enclosed postage paid reply card by May 26.

Your calendar should reflect plans to hold the fourth Commission meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please also hold the morning of Thursday, October 5 for a debriefing session.

I look forward to seeing you in June.

Sincerely,

Art

Arthur J. Naparstek
Director

Enclosure